THE
HOGAN — CULLINAN
FAMILY COLLECTION

"THE BAD SEED": A REVISED BIOGRAPHY OF
RAYMOND A. HOGAN, PROFESSIONAL GAMBLER &
LOCAL UNDERWORLD FIGURE

SUBMITTED TO THE
MAHONING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY
THOMAS G. WELSH, JR., OH
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Cover Art: Undated photograph of Raymond Aloysius Hogan (early 1900s)
(Courtesy of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society)
RAYMOND ALOYSIUS HOGAN

Raymond Aloysius Hogan (October 1899 - Aug. 3, 1957) was a local underworld figure with reputed ties to the Licavoli-Purple Gang, a Detroit-based mob that controlled the "rackets" in the Youngstown-Warren area between the 1930s and early 1960s. A star athlete at The Raven School who attended two private colleges, Hogan cut an unusual figure in a scene dominated by immigrants of humble origin. Evidence suggests that he worked chiefly as a professional gambler, scaring the country in search of "games" that were introduced into the city's underground casinos. Yet, he was also implicated in violent crimes, including shootings, armed robberies, and gangland slayings. His relatives attributed his destructive choices to chemical addiction, a problem that traced back to his adolescence. Still, Hogan's unlikely transformation from "golden boy" to career criminal sheds light on the pervasive nature of organized crime in early 20th-century Youngstown.

He was the youngest of eight (surviving) children born to Patrick James Hogan, Jr., and Mary Agnes (Cullinan) Hogan, in October 1899. His father was a "roller" for the Union Iron & Steel Company, and his mother was born into a middle-class family that had emigrated from County Limerick, Ireland. The Hogs were a sprawling clan that relished athletic competition. Patrick Hogan, prior to his marriage, had been a prizefighter who fought under the pseudonym of "the Masked Marvel." And, Ray Hogan's uncle, Martin F. Hogan, was an ex-major league who managed the Youngstown Ohio Works, a minor league baseball team that won the first championship of the Ohio-Pennsylvania League in 1905. Photographic evidence suggests that Ray Hogan was close to his mother, Mary Agnes Hogan, but anecdotal information concerning their relationship is unavailable. Oral tradition indicates that, in the 1910s, Ray Hogan, along with older brother Edward James Hogan, received intense athletic training under the watchful eye of "Uncle Marty" Hogan. The boys reportedly trained at a Westlake's Crossing gymnasium located above a saloon operated by another uncle, Patrick E. Cullinan.

Like his siblings, Ray Hogan attended high school a year or two later than did most of his non-Catholic peers. Amid sectarian tension over the Protestant cast of public schooling, the Ursuline nuns at St. Columba's School discouraged students from enrolling at The Raven School. Instead, they provided high school-level coursework in classrooms reserved for students who would normally have graduated. When Ray Hogan finally joined his brother at Raven, he most likely found Ed Hogan's athletic record a "hard act to follow," even though he was himself a talented athlete. An article in The Raven Record reports that Ray Hogan competed admirably during a May 12, 1917, track meet in Alliance, Ohio. Rayen's loss to Alliance in that particular contest owed nothing to Ray, who tied for second place in the high jump, took second in the broad jump, and came first in the javelin throw, recording a distance of 140 feet. During a June 2, 1917, track meet with rival South High, Ray Hogan again took first in the javelin throw (155 feet and five inches) as well as the high jump (five feet and four inches). By this time, however, Ed Hogan had established a state record at a May 18, 1917, meet at Mt. Union, where he threw the javelin 153 feet and eight inches. Archival evidence suggests that Ray was often in the shadow of his older brother.

With his combination of speed, precision, and aggression, Ray Hogan was more at home on the gridiron than he was on the running track. Ed Hogan may have towered over his brother (and most others) in the sphere of track and field, but Ray and Ed were often compared when it came to football. And, the brothers' temperaments informed their respective approaches to the game. One

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1 This document was revised on September 16, 2006, to address minor omissions and errors. —TGW

2 The Italian-American Licavoli Gang, which hailed from St. Louis, wrangled with the Detroit-based "Purple Gang" in the early 1930s. When the Russian-Jewish "Purple" shot down members of a rival gang, their leaders were imprisoned and they lost much of their influence. Later, Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli "rushed in" on the reputation of the Purple Gang when moving to dominate the "rackets" in Toledo, Ohio. —TGW
of Ray Hogan’s nephews, Joseph E. Welsh, Jr., recalled hearing middle-aged men comment that, while Ed tended to “finesse” his way down the field, Ray preferred to “go straight down the middle.” It was commonly noted that “Ray would run through a brick wall to catch a stray pass.” While there is a need for further research on Ray Hogan’s contributions to Rayen football, a cursory glance of the October and December 1918 editions of The Raven Record suggests that he was among the team’s “stand-outs.” In a group photograph taken that year, Ray Hogan sits at the right hand of the team’s captain. He also receives a mention in Vic Frolund’s 1960 book covering Rayen-South championship games that were held between 1911 and 1960. In his description of the 1918 Rayen-South match (which Rayen lost 19-0), Frolund writes, “For Rayen, the work of Elliot, Nardicci and Hogan was outstanding on offense.” Yet, there is no evidence of a defining moment like Ed Hogan’s game-winning pass in the 1916 Rayen-South game. Worse yet, Ray Hogan was already in the throes of the heroine addiction that would plague him for the rest of his life. Family lore suggests that a coach at The Rayen School gave Ray morphine so that he would be able to compete on an injury.\footnote{\textit{\textsuperscript{1}}} 

Documents show that, in 1920, Ray worked as an iron structural worker at the Hogan Steel Construction Co., a business established by his eldest surviving brother, William Cecil Hogan, Sr.\textsuperscript{2} By 1921, familial distress over Ray’s behavior precipitated an “intervention” by his older sister, Irene Hogan, whose experience as a social worker enabled her to identify the symptoms of chemical dependence. Oral tradition indicates that Irene Hogan persuaded her father to finance Ray’s enrollment at the University of Notre Dame, where Edward Hogan was attending classes. If the Hogans believed that Ray’s entrance into college would resolve his problems, however, they were disappointed. In 1989, the late Virginia (Hogan) Hart, eldest daughter of William Hogan, Sr., and niece of Ray Hogan, recounted a family anecdote concerning Ray’s introduction to Notre Dame football. As he watched a scrimmage on a university practice field, Ray reportedly heckled the players from the sidelines, denoting them as “bums.” Virginia Hart recalled her father’s description of football coach Knute Rockne’s response: “Rockne finally became so agitated that he was red in the face. He ordered one of the players off the field, and told him to hit the showers and hand off his uniform to Ray. ‘If you’re so good, let’s see what you can do.’ That was the idea. Well, Ray went out there, and he played like the devil—

\begin{center}
\textit{I’m sure that made Rockne even madder.} \footnote{\textit{\textsuperscript{2}}} \textit{She concluded the story by noting that, despite his talent, Ray was “cut” from the football team when he was caught gambling. Ray apparently attempted to continue his studies at nearby Valparaiso University. After leaving Valparaiso (without earning a degree), he took a series of jobs and drifted into a life of crime.}}
\end{center}

In December 1923, Ray was convicted of stealing fourteen diamond rings from a South Bend, Indiana, jeweler. Most relatives interpreted the act as a desperate bid for “drug money.”\textsuperscript{3} Documents on file at the Indiana State Archives show that Ray was sentenced to one to fourteen years at Indiana’s Pendleton Reformatory, on Feb. 19, 1924. Even at this early stage, he was in the habit of employing an alias, which was recorded as “Ray O. Day.” The practice suggests that Ray had earlier brushes with the law, and the reformatory’s records indicate he had compiled a substantial history of petty crimes. The jewelry store robbery, however, resulted in his first incarceration. Overall, the records of the Pendleton Reformatory dovetail with family accounts of the incident. They bear out, for instance, that Ray attended two institutions of higher education before his imprisonment, though the names of the schools are not listed in the documents. The only surprise in the reformatory’s records is a description of Ray’s civil condition as “married.” His wife is identified as “Margorie Hogan,” a resident of Youngstown.\textsuperscript{4} Whatever the circumstances

\begin{footnote}
\textit{\textsuperscript{1}}\textit{Later aliases included “Johnny Peters” and “Joe Bush.” The latter may have been a tribute to “Bullet Joe” Bush, a popular baseball figure during Ray Hogan’s youth.} --TGW
\end{footnote}
surrounding this union, it cannot have lasted long. Most of Ray’s relatives were unaware that he ever had a wife, and Virginia Hart described only a vague recollection of a marriage.”

Ray Hogan’s three-and-a-half month stint at the Pendleton Reformatory overlapped with the tenure of soon-to-be “public enemy” John Dillinger, who arrived there in the fall of 1924. Like the twenty-four-year-old Hogan, Dillinger was among the older inmates at the facility. As Dillinger biographer Dary Mater writes: “Pendleton, though now, quickly suffered from the over crowding that afflicted most prisons. Designed to house 1,200 short-term ‘minors’ not yet twenty-one, it soon doubled that number. Dillinger, already over the loosely governed age limit, was fortunate to have been placed there instead of a grissier adult facility.” Oral tradition is silent on whether the two men became acquainted before Ray’s parole on March 9, 1925. Interestingly, however, the notorious bank robber had connections to the Youngstown area. In the early 1930s, Dillinger reportedly worked as a card dealer at a casino in the Mason-Brookfield area.”

After his release from the Pendleton Reformatory, Ray boarded with his brother, William, who had temporarily relocated with his family to St. Louis, Missouri. The late Patricia (Hogan) Ulrich, younger sister of Virginia Hart, recalled in a 2001 conversation that her mother objected to “putting up” her “black sheep” brother-in-law. The product of a wealthy German-American family, Anna (Welsh) Hogan was “terrified at the thought of having Uncle Ray live with us,” Patricia Ulrich said. “And, you really can’t blame her.” As William and Anna Hogan discussed a diplomatic means to express their concerns to Ray, the problem was unexpectedly resolved. Virginia Hart, who was about thirteen years old at the time, recalled that her uncle was plucking her new ukulele when he was interrupted by a forceful knock on the door. She described what happened next: “My father answered the door, and when he opened it, he took two steps backwards. Now, I don’t recall my father being frightened at any other time, but he was scared then. I mean, it was clear these fellows were gangsters. One of them, I remember, was wearing a big raccoon coat; they were popular at the time. Anyway, they didn’t come in. They just kind of lingered on the porch and asked for Ray. And, didn’t Ray hop up from the floor, with his hand stuck out to greet them. ‘Hey, how’re you doin’?’ That sort of thing. After chatting with them for awhile on the porch, he walked back into the living room and said, ‘Ginny, dear, I’m heading out with some friends of mine, and I was wondering if you’d mind if I borrowed your ukulele.’ And, he swore up and down that he’d bring it back the next morning. Well, the next time I saw Ray, it was ten years later. And, being a kid, of course, I didn’t immediately let go of the fact that I never saw that damned ukulele again.”

Ray’s alleged meeting with criminal associates in St. Louis appears significant, given that he was reportedly “connected” to the infamous “Purple-Licavoli Gang.”* Years before their arrival in Ohio, the Licavolis gained notoriety in their adopted hometown. In 1926, several members of the gang, including James “Blackie” Licavoli (later boss of the Youngstown and Cleveland rackets), were involved in a spectacular chase and gun battle with St. Louis police that claimed the life of one gang member.” Among others, the Licavolis operated a lucrative gun-smuggling operation—a fact that may be significant in light of Ray’s next criminal act. On March 3, 1926, he and a gang of six gunmen robbed the Youngstown Armory, on West Rayen Avenue.† Most of the gang was apprehended within days of the robbery, but Ray eluded police and federal officers for a month-and-a-half before his arrest in Gary, Indiana.‡ In July, he was indicted, along with his six accomplices, for making off with Army pistols and other government property. He was ultimately sentenced to one-to-fourteen years at the U.S. penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. Ray would not be released until February 1930.††

*The vacant shell of the armory still stands (at this writing) on West Rayen Avenue. -TGW
Meanwhile, Ray's alleged "colleagues" in St. Louis moved on to Detroit. There, "Blackie" Licavoli hooked up with cousins Thomas "Yonnie" and Peter "Black Pete" Licavoli, who were embroiled in a turf war with the "Purple Gang," a Russian-Jewish crime organization based on the city's East Side. In the late 1920s, the gang's bootlegging operations came under close official scrutiny, and Blackie Licavoli was sentenced to a brief stretch at the U.S. State Penitentiary at Leavenworth. A more serious challenge arose in 1930, when the Licavoli Gang was implicated in the murder of crusading radio announcer Jerry Buckley, who was gunned down in the lobby of Detroit's LaSalle Hotel. By the following year, however, the tide of events in Detroit had turned in favor of the gang. In 1931, the Detroit underworld was shocked by the implosion of the Purple Gang, and the resulting power vacuum opened a path to power for the Licavolis. When they set their sights on nearby Toledo, Ohio, the gang co-opted the moniker, "Purple Gang." Once there, the Licavolis were implicated in no less than fifteen unsolved murders, whose victims included "uncooperative" bootleggers and merchants who declined to pay "protection" money. Among these were two Cleveland bootleggers, Harry Gertzlin and Al Jofic, who had attempted to extend their activities into Toledo. After taking over the pair's "out-of-town customers," the Licavolis moved on the operations of other bootleggers in northeastern Ohio. Canton-area "beer baron" Martin Schweitzer, for example, was forced to pay the gang no less than $100 a month in "protection."\textsuperscript{11}

Given the brutality of the Purple-Licavoli Gang, the corruption of Toledo's political establishment, and the helplessness of the police force, victims of gangland tactics were inclined to look beyond "official" institutions for protection. Therefore, when a young bootlegger named Jack Kennedy challenged the Licavolis, he assumed the status of "local hero." The twenty-four-year-old Kennedy was indeed right out of movie—handsome, athletic, daring. Like a screen gangster, he was also destined to go down in a hail of bullets. The first attempt on Kennedy's life occurred in 1932, as the bootlegger waited at a traffic light in downtown Toledo. The fired shots left Kennedy unscathed but mortally wounded his female companion. As news of the attack spread, Toledans voiced their outrage; and federal authorities acted swiftly, changing several key members of the Licavoli Gang with violating Prohibition laws.\textsuperscript{12} While Kennedy vowed revenge, the chastened Licavolis began to reevaluate the wisdom of attacking a popular local figure. In 1933, however, Kennedy shattered the jaw of Licavoli lieutenant John Mirabella—an incident that the gang felt it could not overlook. Less than a month later, Kennedy was gunned down at a local resort area as he walked along the beach with another girlfriend.\textsuperscript{13} The slaying proved costly for the Licavoli. Yonnie Licavoli was eventually arrested in Akron, Ohio, with two .32 revolvers strapped to his hips. Alleged assassin John Mirabella vanished, though he is presumed to have died in a Youngstown hospital under an assumed name. Meanwhile, his accomplice, Joseph "Wop" English, turned up in Akron, where he was found hiding under the bed of a female companion.\textsuperscript{14} Ultimately, Yonnie Licavoli would spend thirty-five years in the Ohio State Penitentiary for his role in the Kennedy slaying.

While there is no evidence that Ray Hogan took part in the Licavoli's "takeover" of Toledo, family lore suggests police questioned him over a gangland slaying that occurred near Toledo in the early 1930s. The victim had reportedly been claimed to a tree and shot to death.\textsuperscript{15} Few relatives believed Ray committed the crime. They were convinced that he was "covering" for the culprit and deliberately avoided providing an alibi until hours after his arrest. While this story is unconfirmed, news reports indicate that, in 1930, Ray was held in the Summit County jail for the murder of Massillon, Ohio, bootlegger David M. Cohen.\textsuperscript{16} Charges were dropped about two weeks later.\textsuperscript{17}

Despite questions surrounding many of the charges filed against Ray Hogan, evidence suggests that he served as an occasional mob "enforcer." The local media reported, in 1933, that Ray was one of two men arrested for shooting a man outside a "bootleg place" on the city's North Side in the early hours of New Year's Day.\textsuperscript{18} Don Beale, the twenty-six-year-old victim of the shooting, was evidently part of a gang that attempted to steal beer from a "bootleg resort" operated by one John Richards.\textsuperscript{19}
When Richards realized what was happening, he reportedly confronted Beale and struck him. At some point, one of the two shooters (possibly Ray) grabbed the gun that Richards had been holding and said, "If you can't shoot, then give me the gun." Of the three bullets fired in the melee that followed, one struck the unfortunate Beale in the groin. Owing to the inefficient method the thieves used to remove alcohol from the "speakeasy," their gang sustained yet another casualty. The newspaper reported that one thief was instructed to drop bottles of beer from a second-story window to a group of accomplices who were waiting below. One of the thieves was seriously injured when he was struck on the head by one of the falling bottles. If the ineptitude of the actors in this drama makes for humorous reading, one cannot ignore that the skirmish almost ended in murder. In this case, the victim sustained relatively minor injuries. The next violent episode in which Ray was involved proved more serious.

No single event contributed more to Ray Hogan's notoriety than the incident sensationalized as the "black-and-tan shooting." Besides featuring a gravely wounded victim, the shooting also offered reporters an irresistible tale of lust and violence. The crime, after all, occurred in one of the city's "black-and-tan" clubs, ramshackle dancehalls where blacks and whites gathered for an evening of "hot" jazz. The most popular clubs, the Blue Room and Rainbow Gardens, faced each other across a stretch of West Federal Street, a stone's throw from Westlake's Crossing. Customers interested in more than an evening of live music understood that both establishments were also magnets for prostitutes, who plied their trade while keeping an eye out for local authorities. On the evening of January 7, 1934, twenty-year-old Jeannette James was standing in the hallway of the Blue Room, which was attached to a small hotel, called the Lafayette. As the dancers swayed to jazz tunes, the young African-American woman struck up a conversation with an ex-prizefighter named Ben Russell.

According to reports, at 5:15 a.m., a large black automobile pulled up to the Lafayette Hotel. Two men exited the vehicle and walked toward the entrance of the Blue Room. One of the young men was Ray Hogan. As he was about to enter the club, Ray paused and cast an appreciative glance at the young black woman standing in the hallway. Abruptly, he changed his mind and grabbed the woman by the arm, saying, "Come on, let's go." Russell, who was still chatting with James, objected, saying, "Here, you can't do that." Russell then stepped forward and shoved Ray aside. A heated argument ensued, and a police officer who happened to be on the scene rushed in to restore order. Witnesses said that the policeman spoke privately with Ray and his white companion. He walked them down the block and, eventually, the two men left the premises. Twenty minutes later, however, the sedan pulled up to the hotel once again. This time, Ray walked straight up to Russell, pressed a revolver to his stomach, and said, "Now argue, you..." The utterance was concluded with a gunshot. Russell lunged for the gun; and witnesses who rushed from the dance floor indicated that, if the injured man had failed to secure the weapon, a second shot would surely have been fired. As the crowd grew, Ray Hogan and his associate fled the scene and drove off. While the victim survived, a news story indicated that "the bullet had pierced his intestines four or five times." The story added, "[Russell's] condition is very serious, but hospital attaches say a remarkable physique may pull him through." The next day, a report stated the victim "lingered near death."

Local coverage of the "black-and-tan shooting" was exceptionally detailed. While the ruthlessness of the crime accounts for much of this attention, the timing of the incident cannot be overlooked. Weeks earlier, the municipal government had launched a campaign to "clean up" the city. Reform efforts of this kind were a delicate business in a city like Youngstown, which was characterized by high levels of collusion between local government and organized crime. City officials, therefore, liked nothing better than "easy targets" of the sort presented by the "black-and-tan joints." The vulnerability of these nightclubs stemmed from a variety of factors. Such establishments often had black owners, who were not always positioned to resist pressure from City Hall. As centers of
prostitution that featured “racial mixing,” these enterprises also offended the sensibilities of many within the city’s white middle classes. In addition, “black-and-tan” clubs were often situated in edifices that were out of compliance with the city’s building code. Shuttering down the clubs could therefore be handled through a selective enforcement of the municipal law. On January 2, 1984, several days before the shooting, Youngstown Building Inspector Fred C. Mendicus had condemned the Blue Room and Rainbow Gardens as “unsafe” and ordered the establishments closed.\(^1\)

Almost three months later, Ray Hogan was picked up on a “suspicion” charge by police detectives who found him walking on the city’s North Side, at 2:45 a.m.\(^2\) As his trial approached, however, embarrassed authorities were forced to admit that Russell could not be located to testify. Russell’s absence left Municipal Judge Peter B. Mulholland with few options. Without a victim to file a complaint, Mulholland was compelled to ignore the shooting and charge Ray with violating the terms of his parole.\(^3\) In the end, Ray Hogan received a $50 fine and thirty days in the county jail.\(^4\) If the “black-and-tan” incident reflects poorly on Ray’s character, relatives insist that his behavior resulted from drug abuse. Archival evidence indeed confirms a high level of chemical dependence. Newspaper accounts report that, in November 1986, Ray was charged with possession of narcotics and scheduled for trial in Cleveland.\(^5\) Weeks later, a U.S. district judge sentenced him to two years in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.\(^6\) Following his release, Ray apparently made several desperate attempts to end his heroine addiction. Oral tradition suggests that he boarded with relatives while undergoing the ordeal of withdrawal. In each case, a scorched spoon was discovered among his belongings—a sure sign that Ray had “fallen off the wagon.”\(^7\)

Despite his addiction, Ray Hogan evidently played a role in the local underworld. If nothing else, he was an experienced, well-traveled gambler. And the Youngstown area’s lucrative gambling industry quickly caught the attention of the Purple-Licavoli Gang, which re-organized under the leadership of Yonnie Licavoli’s brother, Pete, who ran operations from Detroit.\(^8\) Meanwhile, Yonnie’s cousin, James “Blackie” Licavoli, retreated to western Pennsylvania and, after a brief hiatus, helped build a criminal empire that boasted operations in states including Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky.\(^9\) He went on to forge a partnership with future Las Vegas legend Morris “Mo” Dalitz.\(^10\) In 1984, the pair established the Lookout House Casino, in Newport, Kentucky. Meanwhile, “Blackie” seized a chunk of the Mahoning Valley’s illegal gambling operation. As behind-the-scenes partner of former Buffalo kingpin Joe “the Wolf” DiCarlo, Blackie was recognized as the moving force behind each of the Youngstown mob’s bold innovations. In an effort to replicate his success with Kentucky’s Lookout House, Blackie helped establish the infamous Jungle Inn, which was built on a patch of land hastily incorporated as Hall’s Corner Village.\(^11\) In his 1982 expose of American organized crime, former Youngstown chief of police Edward J. Allen asserted that Youngstown-area resident Frank Cammara, a brother-in-law of Pete Licavoli, was in the area mainly to protect the Licavoli’s local “business” interests.\(^12\)

In the mid-1980s, a relative’s chance meeting with one of Ray Hogan’s former protégées shed light on the mobster’s role in the Youngstown area’s byzantine underworld. During a visit to the West Side home of a friend, one of Ray’s nephews, Thomas G. Welsh, Sr., reportedly struck up a conversation with his friend’s elderly uncle, former area gambler Michael “Ice House” Horvatch, who had stopped by at the same time. When Welsh casually asked the old man about his career, “Ice House” Horvatch replied stiffly that he had spent some time in prison. “Oh, then you might have known my uncle, Ray Hogan,” Welsh responded. The old man beamed. “Did I know him?”\(^13\) Horvatch said, “Why, he was a great guy. Everybody loved Ray. Of course, nobody ever crossed him.” For the next few minutes, Horvatch recounted how Ray had served as his mentor, taking

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\(^1\) He had been on parole since October 6, 1983, on a “suspicious person” charge. -TGW
him, as a callow youth, on gambling excursions to places like Hallandale, Florida, and Covington, Kentucky. "He taught me everything I know," Horvatch said. "And, a lot of people don’t know this, but Ray was the one that brought barbut to Youngstown." Barbut, as it turned out, was the Turkish dice game that became the centerpiece of the area’s underground gambling industry. Horvatch claimed that Ray was acquainted with a local underworld figure who employed him at casinos and racetracks throughout the country."

There is evidence that Ray achieved folk-hero status among segments of the local population. Father Timothy H. O’Neill, longtime spiritual counselor of former Lightweight Champion of the World Raymond “Boom Boom” Manion, revealed in an interview that his own father, Hubert O’Neill, often described the exploits of Ray Hogan. Father O’Neill noted that his father had been one of Ray’s classmates at St. Columba’s Elementary School. “He told me stories of Ray Hogan back in the Forties,” he said. “I thought he was exaggerating…. All he said was that he was a real, real smart guy, but he was like a con man…. I’m sure to a lot of people he was like a hero—I mean, getting your name in the paper.”

In the last two decades of his life, Ray Hogan would spend more time in prison than outside of it. In 1940, Ray was charged for his role in the armed robbery of an Akron “drug company.” He was sentenced to ten-to-twenty years in the Ohio State Penitentiary and paroled in 1948. In 1949, police sought him, once again, this time for shooting and injuring a St. Paul, Minnesota, man following an Election Day party at a North Side residence. Ray eluded capture for four months before being “trapped” by police and federal agents at a farmhouse near Sharon, Pennsylvania. A newspaper account of his trial suggests the physical toll that his lifestyle had taken on him: “Hogan, unshaven and haggard, limped into the courtroom and hesitatingly pleaded not guilty…” The story also indicated that, at the time of his capture, Ray “had a fresh bullet wound to the jaw and still refused to tell how he was shot.” He was sentenced to one-to-fifteen years in the Ohio State Penitentiary. A 1955 newspaper article indicates that Ray was scheduled for parole on May 18 of that year. He returned to the penitentiary, however, possibly on a parole violation.

Ray Hogan’s final years were spent as a model prisoner at the Ohio State Penitentiary. Despite his violent “career,” his sisters remained devoted to him. And, Ray, for his part, kept them posted with handwritten correspondence. These letters, drafted on prison stationary and executed in elegant longhand, detailed activities that ranged from serving as an acolyte for the chaplain, to teaching classes on subjects as diverse as literature and shorthand. He received occasional visits from Mrs. Donna Fannon, wife of his nephew, Edward Fannon, who later described Ray as “extremely smart, funny, and movie-star handsome.” Sr. Marcia Welsh, O.S.U., recalled that, in the late 1950s, the prison chaplain sent a “beautiful” letter to the three Hogan sisters: Norah Raupple, Marie Fannon, and Irene Welsh. While the letter is now lost, Sr. Marcia recalled its general content. The chaplain urged the women “don’t worry about your brother.” He wrote that Ray had “made his peace with God,” and added, “he’s helping people.” In his own way, Raymond Aloysius Hogan apparently came to reflect his family’s emphasis on service. He remained a fixture in the classrooms of the penitentiary until his death on August 3, 1957. He was fifty-seven years old.

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1 The Raven Record. Youngstown, OH, June 1917, p. 397.
2 The Raven Record. Youngstown, OH, June 1917, p. 596.
3 The Raven Record. Youngstown, OH, June 1917, p. 597.


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

Ibid.


Welsh, Tom, "2 Recall Dillinger as good, not bad guy: Gunman John Dillinger once worked as a card dealer in a Masury gambling club," The Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, Jan. 9, 1994, p. B-1.


Ibid.


"Alleged Robber Nabbed in Gary: Hogan, Charged with Stealing at Armory, Caught in Indiana City," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, April 22, 1936.

"Seven Indicted for Armory Theft," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, June 12, 1926.


"Akron Charges: Local Man Held in Connection with Robbery," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, Nov. 28, 1940.

Harry R. Illman, Unholy Toledo (San Francisco: Polemic Press, 1985), p. 120.

Ibid., p. 115.

Ibid., pp. 124-125.

Ibid., pp. 126-127.

Ibid., pp. 133-134.


"Summit Jury To Probe 2 Murders: Cohen and Green Killings to Be Considered Monday; Bank Robbery, Too," The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland, OH, July 4, 1930.

"Hogan Murder Charge Dropped," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, July 19, 1930.


"Say Shooting Suspects Have Fled from City," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, January 7, 1933.

"Says He Was Shot At Joint: Wounded Man Denies He Was Injured While Stealing Beer," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, January 4, 1933.

Ibid.

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Ibid.

"Black & Tan' Joints Closed," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, January 9, 1934.


"Jail Hogan In Shooting Case: Detectives Find Suspect Sought 3 Months in 'Black-Tan' Fight," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, April 16, 1934.

"Hogan Gets Jail Term in 'Black-Tan' Shooting," The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, April 18, 1934.
“Will Try Hogan On Dope Charge: Moore Pleads Not Guilty on Liquor Charge and Bond Set at $1,000,” The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, October 10, 1936.


Allen, p. 67.


Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Allen, p. 69.

Conversation with Thomas G. Welsh, Sr., Youngstown, OH, August 21, 2006.

Interview with Father Timothy H. O’Neill, Hubbard, Ohio, June 15, 2009.

“Akron Charges: Local Man Held in Connection with Robbery,” The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, November 28, 1940.


“Warrant Filed Against Hogan In $2,487 Holdup at Girard,” The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngstown, OH, April 7, 1949.

Ibid.


Conversation with Mrs. Donna Fannon, Canfield, OH, October 20, 2007. (The conversation took place at the Jubilee celebration of Sister Marcia Welsh, O.S.U.)

Miscellaneous Articles & Other Materials Concerning Raymond A. Hogan
Detail of a photograph taken at the 1912 wedding reception of Norah (Hogan) and Martin Raupple; Edward (left) and Raymond Hogan (right) appear to the left of an Irish harp that served as a centerpiece at the event.
(Courtesy of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society)
The 1918 Football Team

Top Row (left to right): Rickert, Narducci, Gwilliam, Moore.
Middle Row (left to right): Coach Tobin, Wittenauer, Meyer, Jones, Smith, Brophy, Mgr. Rochow.
Front Row (left to right): Hall, Hogan, Capt. Hogan, Elliott, Conley, Eckman.
Reproduction of a group photograph of The Rayen School football team that appeared in a 1918 edition of *The Rayen Record*. Raymond Hogan is seated in the front row, second to the left.
(Courtesy of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society)
Reproduction of a damaged photograph (circa 1922) showing the Hogan brothers posing near the University of Notre Dame’s famed dorm. Standing (left to right) are Raymond Hogan, family friend John J. Buckley, Jr., and Edward Hogan. (Courtesy of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society)
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Hogan, Ray (Raymond A.)

bail reduced on narcotic charge U.S. commissioner

tells of pressure brought upon him to be lenient.
10-10-36-15-1

indicted by federal grand jury on narcotic
charge, 12-18-36-13-4

Akron detectives debate charges vs. Hogan in robbery of
Akron Drug Co. 11-28-40-12-3

Arrested and taken to Akron in November, being held in
Cleveland for questioning in connection with $1,500 holdup
of Akron-drug store. 5-4-41-11B-2

FBI helps jail Hogan and Bernard Caniff in holdups; wanted
in Yo. for and attempted robbery and shooting of Joe. 1.

Known of St. Paul, Minn., at home of Eugene Callan.

Ambush set at farm in Fyngatuning; Hogan, shot in jaw, is

Hogan, Raymond A. (alias Joe Bush)

Nabbed walking into hide out. 3-30-1-8

Taken to City jail. 1-1-41-5-5

Quits Hogan on bank job; Stark County officials seek to tie

City man to Unicount hitup. 4-3-41-1b-1

Warrant filed against Hogan in $2,457 holdup of Ewota Mar

ket at Girard. 4-7-41-3-5

To get parole May 18. 4-11-55-2h-5