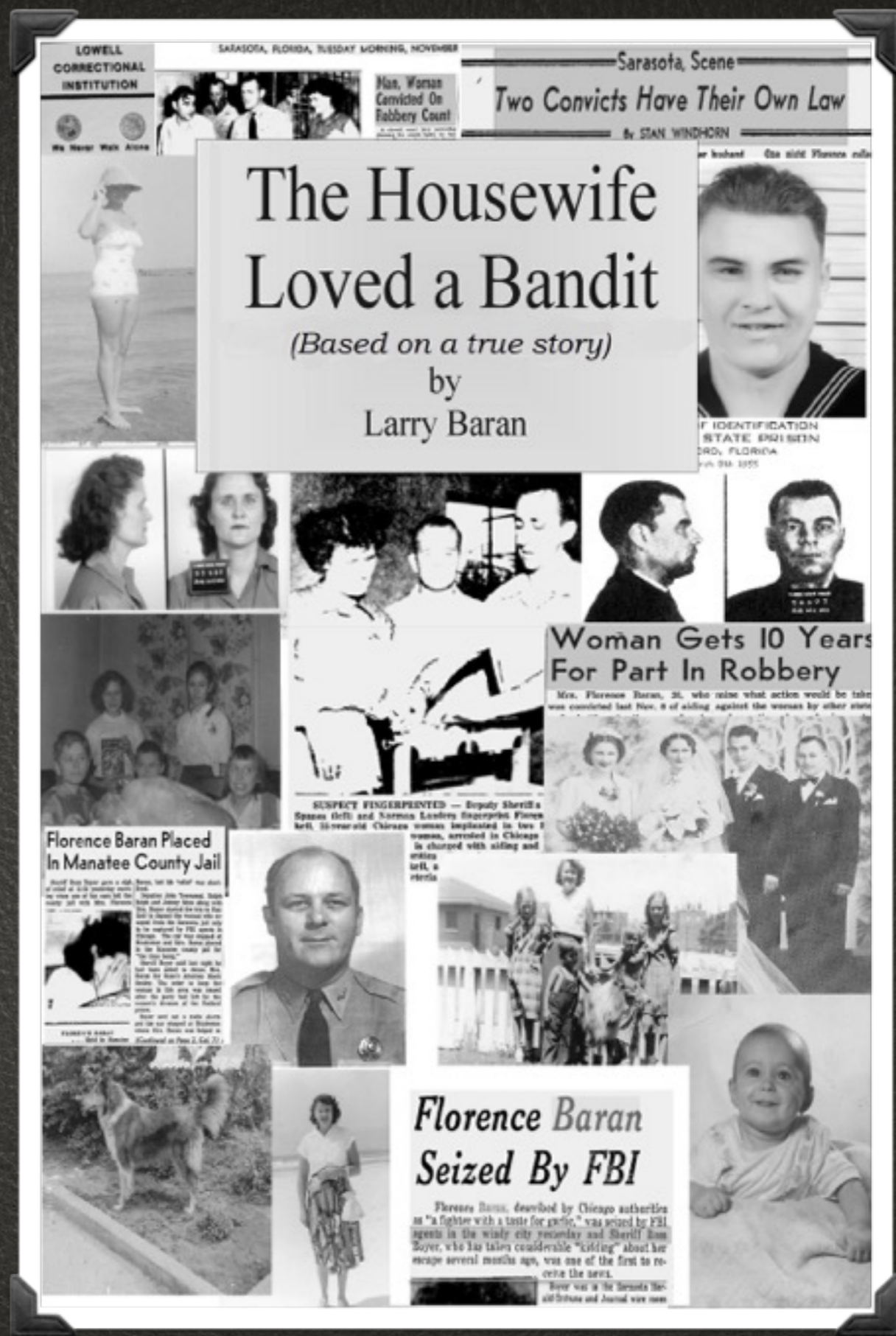


THE HOUSEWIFE LOVED A BANDIT

A SCREENPLAY
BASED ON A TRUE
1950'S STORY OF
LOVE, ADVENTURE,
BETRAYAL AND
REDEMPTION

Larry Baran
larry@mightymoonmen.com
708 337 4649



THE HOUSEWIFE LOVED A BANDIT

** SCREENPLAY BASED ON THE BOOK OF THE SAME NAME.

* COPYRIGHT 2023 LARRY BARAN.

* REGISTERED WGA(W) 2023.

* 120 PAGES

** BOOK PUBLISHED 2017.

* COPYRIGHT LARRY BARAN.

* 234 PAGES. WELL ILLUSTRATED.

* ISBN 9780999271902

* <https://www.amazon.com/Housewife-Loved-Bandit-What-Thinking/dp/0999271903>



LOGLINE

A frustrated 1950's housewife meets a smooth talking ex-con and then leaves her husband and six kids for an adventurous cross-country crime spree. She drives the getaway car while he plays the gun toting bandit.

SETTING

We start with a typical post World War Two family at their Hyde Park, Chicago home with a spacious white picket fenced-in yard, a collie dog named Lassie, a hard working husband and mother raising six children. The crime spree begins on Route 66 to the west coast and ends in Miami, Florida. Much action takes place in Sarasota where, after conviction, the Housewife brazenly breaks out of jail.

MOOD

This story captures the era's nostalgia and post-war angst with a mix of music, drama and comedy, It navigates a rollercoaster of emotions, blending moments of middle class family life, love and betrayal with unexpected bursts of humor. This is enhanced by the black-and-white opening scenes switching to full color as the story progresses. The characters live in a world that is bright, sunny, happy, funny, dark, dangerous and sad.

SYNOPSIS

It's a hot afternoon on July 26, 1954, at our home in Hyde Park, Chicago. I was 4 years old, helping my mom, Flo Baran (35), load bags of dirty laundry into the car. FBI and Chicago police suddenly appear and arrest her. Friends and family watch as she puts up a big fight. It takes five men to subdue her, slip on the handcuffs and force her into the unmarked car. Nobody knew why this was happening except for law enforcement.

Flashback 11 months to August 1953.

Mom, dad and six kids are living a typical family life until mom meets the bandit, Bill Gaskell (26), a wisecracking, tough guy parolee, at a local bar. Flo and husband, Wally (42), have had a tumultuous relationship for years. Tender family moments with the kids happen in between frequent domestic squabbles. Wally catches on to Flo and Bill. Discord between them escalates resulting in Flo and Bill running away together in early November, 1953.

Their cross-country crime spree begins on Route 66. It lasts for seven months, during which they marry in Las Vegas, commit over 25 armed robberies but successfully evade capture. Their relationship begins to sour and Flo makes the decision to leave him. In June, 1954, she turns him in to Miami authorities, takes his car and returns home. Bill returns the favor that results in the July 26, 1954 arrest of Flo at home in Chicago.

Sarasota County Sheriff, Ross Boyer, flies to Chicago to escort Flo back to Florida to stand trial with Bill. Flo is a very uncooperative prisoner known for playing her harmonica, fighting and screaming at deputies, breaking plumbing fixtures, tearing up her cell and ripping off her clothes. Fellow prisoners call her a "noisy wench" among other things.

In November, 1954, Flo and Bill are convicted of armed robbery. He gets fifteen years and is sent to Tallahassee to stand trial for crimes there. Flo remains in Sarasota pending the outcome of his trial. On January 19, 1955, she is sentenced to ten years in prison. Four days later, she breaks out of jail in the middle of the night, hitch hikes to Tampa, has her sister Stella wire money for bus fare and arrives back in Chicago. On April 26th, FBI arrests her in another violent encounter. Back in Florida, she agrees to testify against the janitor who helped her escape.

Flo completes half of her ten year sentence at Lowell Correctional Institution for women. While there, she is a model prisoner, completing chores, making dolls to send home and earning her High School diploma. Parole is granted in May 1959 and she returns home to the family, a changed woman.

CHARACTER

THE HOUSEWIFE
FLORENCE
“FLO”
BARAN

TOOK THE RISK AND
LEFT THE FAMILY FOR
THE ADVENTURE OF A
LIFETIME
ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT
THERE IS TRULY
NO PLACE LIKE HOME



FLORIDA STATE PRISON, RAIFORD, FLORIDA
BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION

Name	Florence Cassell	No.	55250	Date received	June 21st 1955
Birthdate	January 10th 1935	County	Sarasota		
County	Circuit	Crime	Robbery (Armed)		
Term	2 1/2	Years		Months	
Escaped		Receptions		Relieved	

Age 20-24 (27) Height 5'0" (44 1/2) Weight 125 Build Medium Hair Brown Eyes Blue

Mar. Earl Brown, (hus) Blue Island, Ill. - Cook, Housewife
Mar. Chicago, Ill.

Wounds and Scars
"W" scar outside edge upper left arm. Several small cut scars back each hand.
Din cut scar into center lower lip. Fresh cut scar front of lower right leg.

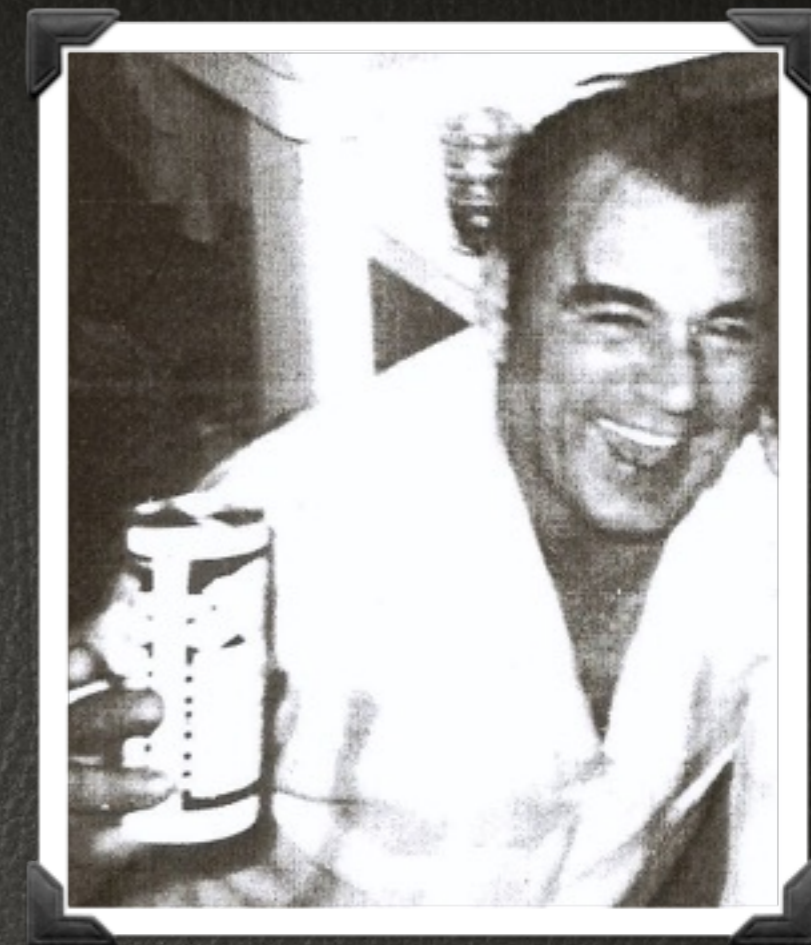
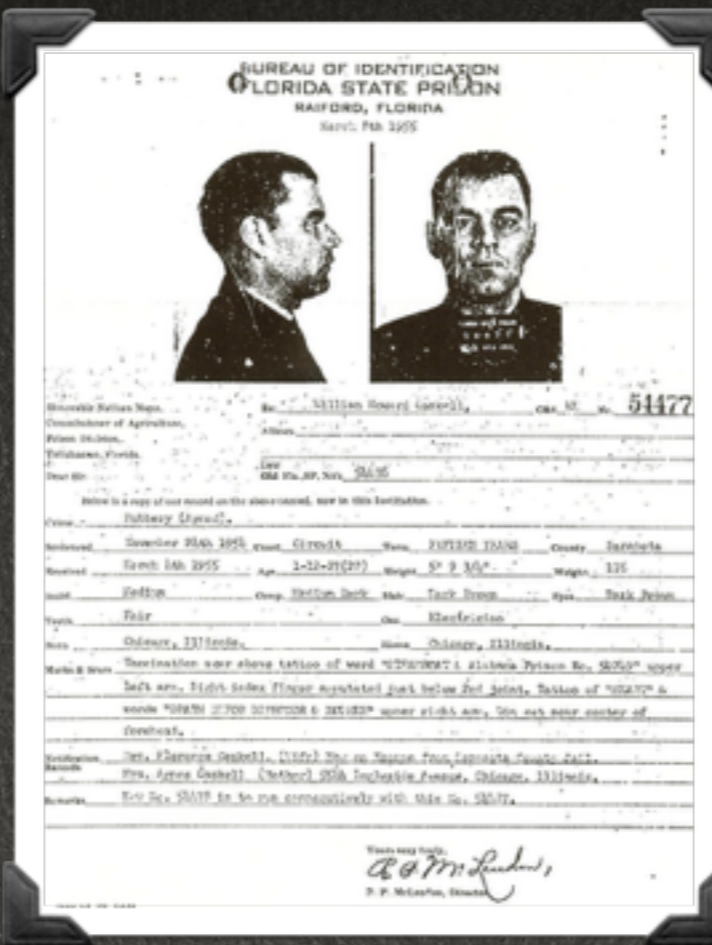
RESOLUTION RECORDS
Mr. Walter Brown, (husband) 3400 Ridgeway Court, Chicago, Ill.
William Cassell, (second husband) 3404 W. Belmont, Fla.
Mrs. Helen Mills, (mother - legal chance) 5220 Dorchester Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

XX Consultant Stated "retroactive to November 5th 1954."

CHARACTER

THE BANDIT
WILLIAM
"BILL"
GASKELL

26 YEAR OLD
EX-NAVY MAN
TURNED SMOOTH
TALKING CAREER
CRIMINAL...
#2 WAS FLO'S #1
BUT NOT FOR LONG



CHARACTER

FLO'S
HUSBAND
WALTER
"WALLY"
BARAN

HE IS A THOUGHTFUL
HARD WORKING FAMILY MAN
OBSESSED WITH "HEALTH
FOODS" AND VITAMIN
SUPPLEMENTS. RAISED IN
CHICAGO DURING THE
DEPRESSION, HE WAS
EXCEPTIONALLY FRUGAL,
MUCH TO HIS
WIFE'S CHAGRIN.



Wally in later years



Wally and Fred play checkers

CHARACTERS

THE SIX CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

THE SIX KIDS PULLED TOGETHER WHEN MOM WAS ON "VACATION". THEY MANAGED TO KEEP HOME LIFE RELATIVELY NORMAL WHILE TRYING TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT WHERE THEIR MOM WAS AND WHAT SHE HAD DONE.



Larry (4)



Deanna (8)



Freddie (10)



Loretta (12)



Jeanne (14)



Nancy (16)

CHARACTER

FLO'S
OLDER SISTER
STELLA

AUNT STELLA HELPED
THE FAMILY DURING
MOM'S ABSENCE.
SHE FAITHFULLY
KEPT FLO'S SECRETS
FOR MANY YEARS.



CHARACTER

FLO'S
YOUNGER SISTER
HELEN

HELEN SOUGHT FAME
AND FORTUNE IN
HOLLYWOOD...
A DREAM FLO COULD
ONLY IMAGINE.

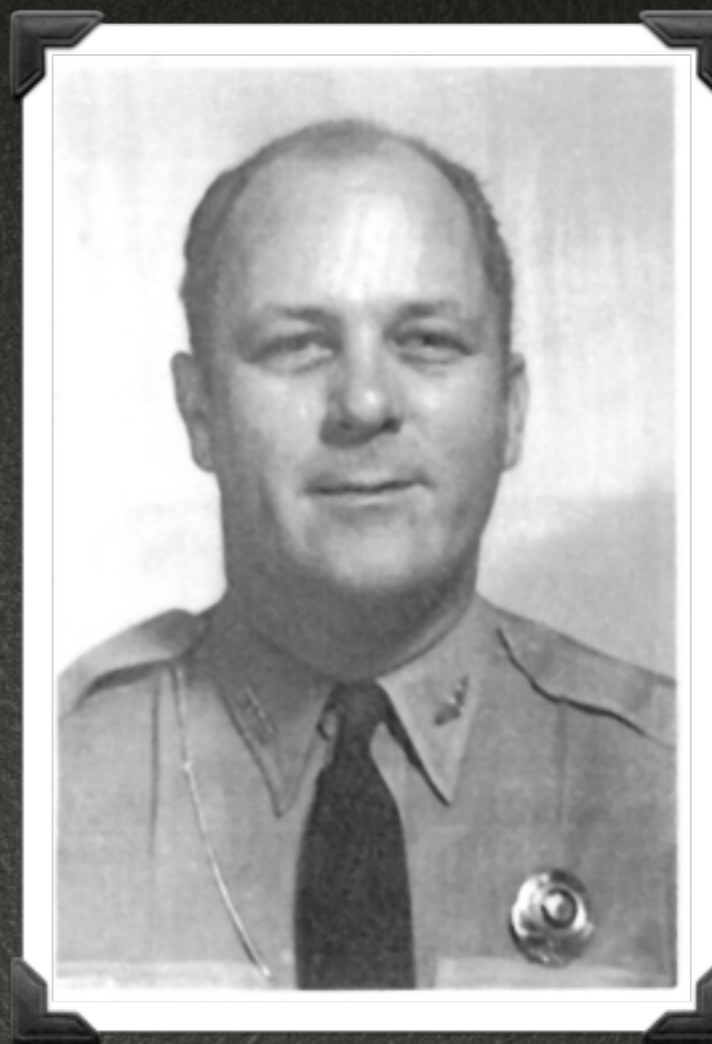


Helen, Cesar Romero and Carmen Miranda

CHARACTER

SARASOTA
COUNTY SHERIFF
ROSS BOYER

THE NEWLY ELECTED
SHERIFF AND HIS
DEPUTIES, HAD THE
DUBIOUS TASK OF
DEALING WITH
“THE TOUGHEST WOMAN
I HAVE EVER SEEN.”



CHARACTER

WALLY'S
MOM
SOFIE
"BUSHA"
BARAN

WALLY'S TRUSTED
CONFIDANTE...
A BEACON OF HOPE
WHILE
THE HOUSEWIFE
WAS ON "VACATION"



Busha standing center



Busha seated front row far left

FAMILY PICTURES



Fun at the beach with Aunt Stella



Summer 1953. 4 months later Flo is on "vacation."



Christmas 1953. Where is mom?



Bill (front left) with family 1931



Flo's mom and sister Helen



Flo and Wally wedding 1938

1954 HEADLINES

**Bandit Holds Up
City Restaurant**

**Bandit Holds Up
Local Cafeteria**

**Alleged Robber Of
Cafe Is Returned**

William Gaskell, 27, of Alabama.

**Holdup Suspect
Is Returned
From Miami**

**Theater Gunman
Nabbed in Miami
For Ritz Holdup**

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

SARASOTA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 25, 1954

**Morrison Cafe Bandit
Gets 15-Year Sentence**

**TESTIMONY HEARD
IN ROBBERY TRIAL**

**BANDIT, GIRL FRIEND
GUILTY OF ROBBERY**

**Man, Woman
Convicted On
Robbery Count**

Bandit Convicted



William H. Gaskell, 27, (center) is shown with his mother and Deputy Sheriff John Townsend as he leaves the circuit court room yesterday following his conviction on charges of holding up Morrison's Cafeteria here last March. The Gaskells are from Chicago. Judge W. T. Harrison will pronounce sentence later.



Mrs. Florence Baran covers her face as she leaves the Circuit Court room yesterday, with Deputy Sheriff Lonnie Selph, after her conviction for complicity in the holdup of Morrison's Cafeteria here last August. She and her boy friend, William Gaskell, were convicted by a jury and now await sentencing by Judge W. T. Harrison.

**Gaskell Files
Appeal On 15
Years Sentence**

**2 Sentenced Here
Appeal Cases To
State High Court**

1955 HEADLINES

Woman Gets 10 Years
For Part In Robbery

Woman Escapes
From Local Jail

Mrs. Florence Baran, 36, sentenced to ten years in the state women's penitentiary for her role in the armed robbery of Morrison's Cafeteria here last April, escaped from the Sarasota county jail yesterday.

Sheriff Seeks
Woman Escapee

Jailhouse Romance Of
Youth, Florence Bared

*Florence Baran
Seized By FBI*

MRS. BARAN FACES
FEDERAL ARRAIGNMENT

Sheriff Plans
To Bring Back
Baran Woman

5. Escape of Mrs. Florence Baran. This was the top crime story of the year. Mrs. Baran,

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

SARASOTA, FLORIDA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, 1955

Sarasota, Scene

Two Convicts Have Their Own Law

By STAN WINDHORN

*Florence Baran Returned
To Sarasota County Jail*

Florence Baran Placed
In Manatee County Jail

ESCAPEE JAILED IN MANATEE

**Mrs. Baran Grilled
By State Attorney**

Florence Baran Held As Witness

Sarasota Scene

Don't Bandy Words With A Lawyer

By STAN WINDHORN

Janitor Held For
Aiding In Escape

*Courthouse Worker
Aids Jail Break*

*Courthouse Employee
Arrested For Escape*

Courthouse Janitor Is
Discharged By Board

Dewey Long Will
Face Trial Today

Long Found Guilty
Of Aiding Escape

**Dewey Long
Gets 3 Years
Hard Labor**

MRS. BARAN
IS TAKEN
TO RAIFORD



COUNTY PATROL
CARS

Sarasota Herald-Tribune



JAIL CELLS



FLO
FINGERPRINTS



SHERIFF BOYER



FLO'S JAIL BREAK



SHERIFF DEPUTIES



"FLORENCE IS BACK!"



FLO LEAVING COURT



HERALD TRIBUNE
PRESS ROOM



MAIN STREET SARASOTA

FLO AND BILL'S FAVORITE HIGHWAYS



US Route 66 Chicago to the west coast



US Route 90 El Paso to Florida



US Route 41 Florida to Chicago

Oak Park Illinois, Western Union, robbery, \$200
 Oklahoma city, Oklahoma, Western Union, robbery, \$600
 El Paso, Texas, restaurant, robbery, \$150
 Phoenix, Arizona, drug store, robbery, amount unknown
 Pasadena, California, Western Union, robbery, \$150
 Pasadena, California, Safeway Super Mart, robbery, amount unknown
 Pasadena, California, Super Mart, robbery, \$200
 Pasadena, California, Drug store, robbery, amount unknown
 Pasadena, California, Restaurant, burglary, money and food
 Miami, Florida, Restaurant, 3 burglaries, money and food
 Miami, Florida, laundry, burglary, amount unknown
 Miami, Florida, Kosher delicatessen, robbery, \$70
 Miami, Florida, used car lot, auto larceny, 1946 or 47 Chevrolet
 Miami Beach, Florida, Western Union, robbery interrupted, fled
 Miami Beach, Florida, vegetable market, robbery, amount unknown
 Miami Beach, Florida, restaurant, robbery, cigars/cigarettes/candy
 Panama City, Florida, theater, robbery, \$1600
 Pensacola, Florida, theater, robbery, \$600
 Sarasota, Florida, Morrison's cafeteria, robbery, \$800
 Sarasota, Florida, Plaza restaurant, robbery, \$600
 St Petersburg, Florida, restaurant, robbery, \$200
 St Petersburg, Florida, Western Union, robbery, \$150
 St Petersburg, Florida, gas station, robbery, \$220
 St Petersburg, Florida, restaurant, burglary, hams/bacon/cigarettes
 Tallahassee, Florida, theater, robbery, \$800 (bank moneybag)
 Tallahassee, Florida, theater, robbery, \$500
 Tallahassee, Florida, restaurant, robbery, \$300

Flo and Bill's 7 month crime spree



Sarasota County Courthouse and jail

QUOTES FROM THE SCRIPT

FLO: "... he's either a world class bullshitter or some dude with male pattern stupidity."

BILL: "Bogus trial. Bogus charges. Bogus jury. Prejudiced against Yankees."

SHERIFF BOYER: "She was with the bandit we got in June. Spilled the beans on him. He returned the favor."

WALLY: "White bread and junk food poisons the kids..."

DEPUTY TOWNSEND: "When ifs and buts are candy and nuts, every damned day will be Christmas."

FLO: "My trial is tomorrow. I'll be found innocent and be home by Thanksgiving."

BILL: "You all have me mistaken for somebody else."

FLO: "Listen buster. I'm the mother of six beautiful children."

JUDGE HARRISON: "Profanity is not tolerated in my court."

WITNESS: "That's him. He pointed a gun at me. I thought I was gonna die."

HOMER: "Come on darling. No need to act ornery all the time."

SHERIFF BOYER: "She's mean. She's tough. She's gonna hurt somebody bad."

AUNT STELLA: "Oh yes. All eleven thousand of them."

WANTED: Actors

Main Characters

Flo (35)(40)
Wally (42)(47)
Bill (26)
Sheriff Ross Boyer (45)
Deputy Townsend (30)
Larry (4)(9)
Deanna (8)(13)
Freddie (10)(15)
Loretta (12)(17)
Jeanne (14)(19)
Nancy (16)(21)
Busha (60)
Homer (45)
Lawyer Billy Cox (40)
Judge Harrison (50)
Skeeter Boarman (7)(12)
Alice Boarman (16)(21)
Lassie (woof) and Spitfire (meow)
Randy White (15)
State's Atty Mack Smiley (50)
Three Parole board members (40)

Minor roles

Deputy Landers (35)
Deputy Selph (35)
Bill's mom Agnes (50)
Wally's Boss Aaron(50)
Motel clerk (40)
Gas station man (20)
Neighbor Man and Wife (60)
Three FBI agents (30's)
Six Chicago cops (30's)
Leroy Boarman (45)
Maxine Boarman (45)
Two Male prisoners (30)
Justice of the Peace (40)
Witness Mr. Barkley (40)
Witness Mrs. Piggens(40)
Witness Mrs. Jules (40)
Witness Mr. Jones(40)
Bailiff (40)
Jury Foreman (50)
Florida State Trooper (35)
Dade County Sheriff (50)
Bill's Lawyer (40)

TARGET AUDIENCE

The movie can attract a wide range of viewers and create a compelling narrative that resonates with many such as:

- ***Fans of Historical Dramas:** People who enjoy films set in specific historical periods, especially the 1950s, would be drawn to the movie's setting and historical context.
- ***Crime and Thriller Enthusiasts:** Viewers who love suspense, excitement, and the adrenaline rush of crime stories would find this plot intriguing.
- ***Character-Driven Story Lovers:** Audiences who appreciate complex characters and relationships, especially unconventional ones, would be interested in the dynamic between the mother and the bandit.
- ***Fans of Strong Female Leads:** The portrayal of a 36-year-old mother involved in a crime spree would attract viewers who enjoy strong, unconventional female protagonists.
- ***Retro and Nostalgia Seekers:** People who have a fondness for the 1950s era, including its fashion, music, and cultural elements, would be drawn to the film's nostalgic appeal.
- ***General Moviegoers:** Those who enjoy a good story with elements of drama, action, and romance would also find this movie appealing.

MOVIES WITH SIMILAR THEMES

In the movie and in real life, thankfully, Flo and Bill never shot a gun. Bill's intimidating tough guy persona persuaded victims to give up the cash without a fight. Ultimately, the gun was just for show. Although the films listed here lack the family element, they do share themes of crime, rebellion, and complex character dynamics, making them similar in spirit to "THE HOUSEWIFE LOVED A BANDIT."

Bonnie and Clyde (1967): Set in the 1930s, this classic film tells the story of the infamous criminal couple, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, who go on a crime spree during the Great Depression. It captures the excitement and danger of a life of crime. Gaskell mentions Clyde insisting they shared a similar reason and M.O. for their crimes.

Thelma & Louise (1991): This film follows two contemporary women who embark on a crime spree after a series of unfortunate events. It explores themes of friendship, freedom, and rebellion.

Public Enemies (2009): A 1930's depression era classic follows the notorious bank robber John Dillinger and his gang. It captures the era's atmosphere and the thrill of a life of crime.

Road to Perdition (2002): Another Great Depression era drama follows a mob enforcer and his son as they go on the run after a betrayal. It has elements of crime, family, and historical drama.

Catch Me If You Can (2002): Based on a true story, this film follows a young con artist who successfully impersonates various professionals while being pursued by an FBI agent. It captures the excitement and ingenuity of a life of crime.

SUGGESTED ACTORS

THIS LIST WAS ORIGINALLY COMPILED IN 2010 WHEN THIS PROJECT BEGAN.

BILL - CHARLIE GILLESPIE TYPE

I originally saw Joaquin Phoenix in this role. Too late, too old.

WALLY - KEVIN DILLON TYPE

I originally saw Kevin Dillon in this role.

FLO - AMELIA ROSE BLAIR TYPE

I originally saw Carla Gugino in this role. She is from Sarasota and always wanted to portray a real character from the 1950's. Too late, too old. Jennifer Garner too.

STELLA - JENNIFER CONNELLY TYPE

I originally saw Connelly or Garner in this role.

SHERIFF BOYER - LUCAS BLACK TYPE

I originally saw John Goodman in this role.

DEPUTY TOWNSEND - HENRY ZEBROWSKI TYPE

I originally saw Walt Goggins in this role.

BUSHA - MERYL STREEP TYPE

I originally saw Meryl Streep in this role. She speaks Polish fluently.

SOUNDTRACK in order of play.

These are suggestions. No rights have been secured.

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN by GENE AUTRY

HOW HIGH THE MOON by LES PAUL

HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW? by PATTI PAGE

TENNESSEE WALTZ by HANK WILLIAMS

HEY GOOD LOOKIN' by HANK WILLIAMS

TO KNOW YOU (IS TO LOVE YOU) by PATTI PAGE

THAT'S AMORE by DEAN MARTIN

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD (traditional)

DING DONG THE WITCH IS DEAD from THE WIZARD OF OZ

DEEP PURPLE by ARTIE SHAW and HELEN FORREST

CHICAGO (THAT TODDLIN' TOWN) by FRANK SINATRA

THE WALK AWAY BLUES (demo) by FLORENCE and LARRY BARAN

HAVING FUN IN SARASOTA by HACK SWAIN AND HIS MUSIC

THE WALKAWAY BLUES

*I got the walkaway walkaway blues
The kind of walkaway blues I can't lose
I'm gonna leave this town
ain't gonna hang around
I got the walkaway walkaway blues*

*I got the walkaway walkaway blues
I'm gonna get me some walkaway shoes
I'm gonna see new sights
and other city lights
I got the walkaway walkaway blues*

*Now I'm all through with dreamin'
It's time for me to start anew
and all my fancy schemin'
isn't likely to come true
and that's why*

*I got the walkaway blues
right down to my walkaway shoes
I'm gonna pack my sack
and I ain't lookin' back
I got the walkaway walkaway blues
oh yeah!
I got the walkaway walkaway blues.*

- Florence Baran

Flo's song about her fling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuEtHzUpmdw>

BUDGET

1. How the hell would I know?
2. I haven't a clue.
3. Not my area of expertise.
4. Best left up to the experts.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

SARASOTA, FLORIDA, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1956

Sarasota.

5. Escape of Mrs. Florence Baran. This was the top crime story of the year. Mrs. Baran, sentenced for armed robbery, was awaiting transfer to the state prison when she escaped from the Sarasota County jail. Captured by the FBI in Chicago, she returned here to help convict Dewey Long, courthouse maintenance man, of aiding in her escape.

32

vi

pl

sa

S

S

F