



# ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE



In 1929, America was living in the "Prohibition Era". During this time, it was **illegal** to make or sell alcohol. This situation provided many opportunities for criminals who began providing liquor to thirsty clients. Famous Chicago gangster, Al Capone, became rich and powerful during this time.

However, Capone had his **rivals**. Bugs Moran was the head of the North Side Irish gang. He posed a **threat** to Capone. On February 14, 1929, Bugs Moran and his gang were assassinated in a garage on the north side of Chicago. Although there was never any proof that Capone was responsible, everyone believes that he ordered the massacre.

On that **fateful** Valentine's Day, five men entered the garage, two dressed as police officers. They lined up seven members of the gang against the wall and shot them with submachine guns. The crew fired so many bullets (approximately 150) that the bodies were shredded to pieces. Each body had around 15 bullets each. One victim had half his head blown off. A barking dog in the garage alerted the neighbors who called the police. When the police arrived, they were horrified by the carnage they saw in the garage.

Although the hit was a "success", Moran was not killed in the attack. In fact, he had been running late and when he reached the garage, he saw a police car outside. He decided to wait things out in a coffee shop. This move saved his life.

The Prohibition Laws were **repealed** in 1933. However, by that time, organized crime had grown strong and well- established in the United States. Law enforcement was never able to eliminate it in the years that followed.

**Read the sentences and write TRUE or FALSE.**

1. Capone had a liquor business.
2. Bugs Moran was in the liquor business.
3. Capone was arrested for ordering the massacre.
4. The garage was in Chicago.
5. When prohibition ended, the mafia disbanded.

**Find a synonym in the text for these words:**

1. unlawful \_\_\_\_\_
2. competitors \_\_\_\_\_
3. danger \_\_\_\_\_
4. auspicious \_\_\_\_\_
5. revoked \_\_\_\_\_



**DISCUSSION:** Do you think Al Capone (if he ordered this execution) chose St. Valentine's Day on purpose? Why or Why not?