

Poetry Series

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker
- poems -

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Bonnie Elizabeth Parker(Oct 1 1910 - May 23 1934)

Famous as Bonnie & Clyde

Bravery (Bonnie, A Happy Mask On A Sad Heart)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

No one must know that I'm lonely
Or care that you've gone away
And I must smile while I answer
You will be back some day

02:

No one must know how I tremble
When I hear a siren moan
Just fearing for you darling
And hoping you're safe at home

03:

Sometimes in my wildest fancy
I dream you're coming back
Tho I know it is never possible
I'll always be waiting Jack

04:

I must be singing always
Smiling as others do
Tho I'm weighted down with sadness
And my heart cries out for you

05:

When I say my prayers at evening
This is the thing I ask
God, make me braver tomorrow
Paint me a brighter mask

END

Historical Note:

Bonnie composed this poem in the time period 1930 to 1931.

01:

"Jack" in this poem is Clyde Barrow. He's "gone away" to Huntsville Penitentiary.

02:

But when Bonnie "hears a siren moan" she's still used to trembling like she did before, and hoping "Jack" is safe at home.

03:

Bonnie tells that she believes Clyde will never come back to her, (she is already preparing herself for the abandonment she fears)but tells that she will never lose hope and will always be waiting for him if he does. When Clyde did get released and turned up unexpectedly at Bonnie's door, Bonnie immediately left the man she was there with and ran straight into Clyde's arms.

04:

Bonnie tells that although she projects happiness on the outside, she is sad inside and misses Clyde intensely.

05:

Bonnie prays to God to help her live with her sorrows and to help her at least create an illusion of happiness.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

I'll Stay (Bonnie, A Promise To Clyde Barrow)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

Just like the ramblin' roses
Round the porch in summer do
Tho all the world forget you
That's the way I'll cling to you

02:

Just like the sturdy ivy
On a castle's crumbling stone
I'll cling to you and love you
And you'll never be alone

03:

Just like the stars in Heaven
Cling around the Moon at nite
I'll stay with you forever
Whether you are wrong or right

04:

Just like the perfume lingers
On a rose until it dies
I'll stay with you and guide you
With the love light in my eyes

05:

Just like an old song longing
On an exile's lonely breast
I'll stay with you & gladly help
To build a humble nest

06:

Just like the ramblin' roses
Round the porch in summer do
Tho skies are grey my sweetheart
I'll always stay with you

END

Historical Note:

This poem was composed by Bonnie during 1930 and 1931 while Clyde was in the Huntsville Penitentiary. This poem is Bonnie's promise to Clyde which she kept to the letter, right up to the moment they were killed together. In this poem Bonnie mirrors her own fear of abandonment, in her promise never to abandon Clyde.

01:

In this poem Bonnie promises to never forget Clyde even if everyone else does, no matter how long he ends up spending in jail.

02:

She promises that she will never leave him alone. Bonnie kept this promise to the very end and never left him even though her mother Emma and others implored her to. At the end Bonnie was killed sitting beside Clyde.

03:

Bonnie promises to stay with Clyde forever, regardless of whether he is wrong or right.

04:

Bonnie promises Clyde that until she dies, he will always have her love.

05:

Bonnie promises that wherever they may be, she will help him build a home.

06:

Bonnie promises Clyde to stay with him no matter how bad things get.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

In Memoriam To Bonnie Her Epitaph And Eulogy (Bonnie & Clyde)

Bonnie's Epitaph:

"As the flowers are all made sweeter
By the sunshine and the dew
So this old world is made brighter
By the lives of folks like you"

A Eulogy To Bonnie:

001:

In the little country town of Rowena
A sleepy mostly Czech-German place
Runnels County, Texas State
October the first of nineteen-ten
Bonnie Parker her first breaths did pace

002:

When Bonnie was but only four
A sorrowful call was sent
Saying her father Charlie
Had died at work
In a new years eve accident

003:

Thus Emma was widowed
With no way to provide
So she packed up the kids
And moved in with her parents
Back, West Dallas country side

004:

And so with "the Krause's" of Fishtrap Road
There the "Parker's" lived with them
But all the neighbor-hood soon knew
That Emma Parker was also a Krause
So "pidgeon-holed" the Parker's as also "German"

005:

Because of that big "European War"
Germans in Dallas were popular not
People kind of avoided them
And gave them the "cold shoulder" a lot
So Bonnie grew up feeling "out-casted" somewhat

006:

Even though with pride she knew
That a German had in Dallas
The Adolphus hotel built
And beside it the Kirby building too
Where Emma Parker's attorney Edward Meek had his bureau

007:

Bonnie was lively
She raised quite a stir
"he's a devil in his own home town"
Sang the cute little Sunday-School girl
Instead of the song assigned to her

008:

Fast pal's Bonnie did make
With a cousin she found there
And all through their childhood
On Frank and Mary's little farm
Bonnie and Dutchie were raising hair

009:

Out there on Fishtrap Road
Just West of the Trinity
Across from Dallas City
Bonnie and Dutchie were
Acting and singing and clowning around

010:

Bonnie said to those annoyed
Oh please just let me be
When you see my name in lights
You'll be sorry
You talked like that to me

011:

Little did she then know
Or could anyone then believe
That she'd go down in History
As the toughest grittiest little girl
The world had yet to see

012:

At their local "Cement City" school
Built for the children
Of the nearby company town
Bonnie and Dutchie cut a wide swathe
In school activities and runnin' around

013:

Bonnie was the star pupil
The junior "Spelling Bee" champ
That bright little Parker girl
Oh was she such an adorable
Cotton haired Vamp

014:

But Bonnie felt on her "own skin"
What it was like to live on the "out-side"
So she tended to have a "soft spot"
For those "out-casted" somewhat
To them she was compassionate and kind

015:

And when hearing her cousin and best pal Dutchie Krause
At school by the other kids get called a louse
Bonnie with fists jumped in
Like a cat on a mouse
They weren't gonna call her cuzzy a "krause-louse"

016:

And when school's end
Finally loomed nigh
Handsome classmate Roy said Hi
Well, he started hanging around
And Bonnie decided to "lock him down"

017:

So married they got
Bonnie just short of sixteen
And life was "bliss"
For a short little while it seems
Hormones fueling their young dreams

018:

But Roy soon tired
Of his cute little bride
And spreading his wings
He started travelin' wide
Often missing from Bonnie's side

019:

Bonnie was lonesome
And awfully blue
Pining for the Husband
She had thought was true
Not knowing what to do

020:

With her wedding ring
Her tattoo of two hearts pierced by an arrow
With "Bonnie" and "Roy" inked within
And that piece of paper
That said she was married to him

021:

For she had been
An obedient school and family gal
Building for an ideal station in life
And now all seemed lost
Bonnie felt in strife

022:

Her "woman's glory"
Spent on a "no good cur"
She'd "had her day"
Now her Husband
Had gone away from her

023:

Gone to break every commandment
With the world still lending him a hand
While she, who had loved but unwisely
Was now an outcast
All over the land

024:

She often prayed to God
Days and nites when she was blue
But all her tears and pleadings
Brought no answer down from him
Or guided her as to what to do

025:

Till she learned that God
Doesn't work that way
She learned that one has to first take
Then pray for forgiveness
And hope to make

026:

For life is about giving and taking
And Bonnie "gave" and "took"
And if anyone has hard feelings about her
Then they should look in the mirror
And read "The Book"

027:

So she came into Dallas City
With her hair "down her back in a curl"
And soon got a job in the "chorus"
Down at Marco's Cafe
In it's mad dizzy world

028:

Sheriff Hal Hood for his doughnut
A Judge wanting a cigar
Oysters anyone?
Coffee, sugar, milk, pepper, salt, ketchup
What would you like Sir? Here you are!

029:

All the while in the corner sat
Western Union messenger boy Ted
Dreaming wet dreams of that cute waitress girl
Trying to figure out
How he could get her in bed

030:

Some played her for a "Mark"
Claimed to be penniless and starved
Her heart was so big that often
On her own dime she fed them free
Her paycheck thus, often halved

031:

Of camouflage, she learned the power
How with "Parker" she easily "under the radar" flew
But as soon as people connected her with "Krause"
How their demeanor changed, now that they knew
She felt like some "secret villain" in disguise

032:

Bonnie was one hell of a "spark"
Only four foot eleven
And but ninety pound
But a thousand of dynamite
Spreading love all around

033:

Often she'd borrow a car
And go driving near and far
But Bonnie was no naive "date"
With her she always carried
Her Smith and Wesson Model Ten Two Inch Thirty-Eight

034:

She played "Hard" and "Fast" as 'Bonnie Jean'
With her cute looks and good form
She had a new man every evening
Her kisses were tender and warm
Her purse never empty, and she never forlorn

035:

Then came "The Crash"
And Marco's closed down
They let Bonnie "go"
But there were few jobs left
To be found in the town

036:

Then her sis in law Edith's sis Clarence
Broke her arm
So Bonnie hurried on over to help
There was surely no harm
In perking her up with her charm

037:

While Bonnie was with Clarence
Edith took the chance
To set Bonnie up
With a possible romance
So she called over her friend Clyde Barrow

038:

The two with each other
Were most certainly charmed
Bonnie could not know then
How this dashing, handsome young boy
Was going to get her harmed

039:

Clyde milled around constantly
Showing Bonnie what a "daddy" he could be
Then the Law, knocked on the door
With them they took Clyde away
Down to the City "pen"

040:

For Clyde had quite a "backstory"
He hadn't yet to Bonnie read
She was so distraught
She was almost dead
This perceived "injustice" to Clyde went to her head

041:

She visited him often
Down there in that City jail
Just across from old Marco's Cafe
All the Laws there knew
The cute little waitress well

042:

Round Clyde was sent, to other jails
Till finally a charge stuck
And he confessed
Two to fourteen years in the "Pen"
Who could have guessed?

043:

Now Bonnie was no "Sissy Sob"
The tough "school yard brawler"
Was up for the job
A gun 'tween her breasts she smuggled to him
With that she had committed her first big sin

044:

That night Clyde broke out and by morning he was far
But his freedom was short-lived
For the Laws soon caught him
And re-assigned him the full
Fourteen years in the "Pen", for the par

045:

Down in Huntsville "Pen" Clyde howled
That abuse of prisoners should not be allowed
That when his sentence was finally past
Clyde vowed that this jail stint
Would be his last

046:

Back home Bonnie's heart was breaking for him
There was nothing to do but wait for him
She wrote him she wanted him
To be a man not a thug
For all she wanted was Clyde to hug

047:

They only think you are mean
But I know you are not
And I will be the very one to show you
How "swell" this "outside" world is
When you get out we'll both live happy and clean

048:

And Sugar, you'll be good
When you get out, won't you?
I promise you I'll be good too
For my love for you is so true
Oh please don't break my heart in two

049:

Twenty-one months later
Limped Clyde, into Bonnie's door
Bonnie jumped up when him she saw
And threw her arms around him
And with that, Hell had just opened it's door

050:

For Clyde didn't stay good
After he got out of that "Pen"
So Bonnie made up her mind
That she'd go bad instead
After all, what did she really have to lose?

051:

Since she felt that through no fault of her own
She'd been branded a "woman of shame"
And left all alone, she reckoned that
"Prostitutes", "Gangster Gals" and "Molls"
Was all she had left in the game

052:

So from that moment on
Bonnie "ran" with Clyde
A short stint in Kaufman jail
She took in her stride
She even took it with pride

053:

For she was now "Suicide Sal" and "Tiger Rose"
She left the "Street Girl" behind
What ever it took she would never more
Leave her "Daddy's" side
With him she would for evermore ride

054:

For he was her "Jack"
And she was his "Moll"
The tough gangster gal, "Suicide Sal"
She would never again sit lonely at home
That old life could go to hell

055:

Over the highways and byways
Bouncing along over the gravel and dirt
Of numerous back country roads
Over hills, past deserts
Cornfields and meadows they rode

056:

As that endless road slid under
The spinning wheels of their racing machine
Bonnie and Clyde would ride and ride
Always at the ready
Machine guns at their side

057:

Constantly praying
That they would reach
Just a little further on down the road
To that next town along
Just on up ahead according to Bonnie's map

058:

A bottle of whiskey often they had
To sanitize wounds and sip some inside
Bonnie always had her auto road maps
So that "blind" they did not always have to ride
Their Indian-blanket's camouflage letting them in woods better hide

059:

Weary and tired never a break they got
Perhaps they sometimes thought they were not
But soon enough a sub-gun's rat-tat-tat
Would remind them
That they were still "Hot"

060:

All the boys who joined them "on the road"
Were each somewhat maladjusted and "dim"
But still to her they were kind
She often felt sorry
For them and their sins

061:

And as an outlaw herself
They were "brethren" to her
At least that's how she felt
For in her mind
They were her "kind"

062:

On the run with so many angry young men
Killing not ever far from their minds
And fast off their tongues
Bonnie was often intervening at the top of her lungs
To calm them down and save people's "hinds"

063:

Clyde was very very mean
But mellowed a lot it seems
Not wanting to give Bonnie bad dreams
So while Bonnie was around
He only killed if another "fix" could not be found

064:

For Bonnie only wanted by Clyde's side to be
"Running" was not really her "cup of tea"
She hated the loneliness, dirt and drudgery
But there was no other way it could be
If they wanted to stay together and stay free

065:

Clyde often cleaned and oiled his guns
They were the "tools" of his trade
And the difference between life and death they made
Along with his "kit" for "hot-wiring" cars
Clyde was a "master craftsman" getting himself "paid"

066:

All through this "road trip" of hell
Bonnie, petite, was always dressed so well
High heels and perfume
Hair in a permanent set
Combed, pinned and capped

067:

Eyebrows plucked thin
And eyelashes brushed
With Maybelline
Nails filed to a point
Polished and clean

068:

A long-skirt paired with a figure hugging top
Stockings, no knickers
So she could make a quick "pit stop"
Without wasting time or being seen
And ride long hours cramped in that machine

069:

A dainty little watch on her left hand
On her left ring finger, Roy's wedding band
There too was Clyde's diamond ring
For Bonnie was Mrs Roy Thornton
And Clyde Barrow's "Queen"

070:

A brooch with three acorns
And a little cross Bonnie wore
Commending her soul to Heaven
Hoping she might still
Sneak in the back door

071:

While a cigarette, sandwich
Coke and magazine
This side of Heaven
Kept her mean and lean
Reading "True Detective" she could be seen

072:

A Colt Thirty-Eight Detective Special
Taped up in her crotch
Another pistol in her purse
And still another folded
Into a clothing swatch

073:

Oh yes, and also her Twenty Gauge
Five-Shot, Semi-Auto
Remington cut down shot-gun
Just when you thought
It couldn't get worse

074:

Bonnie made up her mind
That she would ride and ride
Sitting by Clyde's side
Never to be parted from him
Until one or both of them died

075:

Stealing and robbing and shooting
Driving fast like hell
Riding to nowhere, running away from everywhere
With only the soothing comfort
Of the constant drone of their motor's song

076:

Sleeping in the woods
Hidden in the brush
Bonnie often talked silently
To the stars in the sky
Just to while the time by

077:

While she stood watch
Always wide awake
Over her sleeping "Jack"
Lest someone sneak up
And she had to watch him die

078:

With the silence of the night
Magnifying everything to terrifying proportions
A sudden crack or suspicious sound
Would send Clyde scrambling for his guns
And Bonnie running for the car

079:

So elusive their tactics got
The Laws had great trouble
Trying to put them "on the spot"
It was one epic big game
Of "hide and seek" and "catch me if you can"

080:

The Laws had "pea-shooters"
And old motor cars
Bonnie and Clyde had Ford V-Eights
Automatic Forty-Five Pistols
And National Guard B.A.R's

081:

Driving like hell with socks on his feet
Clyde could "feel" the car and the road so neat
No need to change gear for a sharp bend
Clyde left the Laws in the dust
Over and over and over again

082:

The Press had a field day
With that fugitive gangster Clyde Barrow
And his "cigar smoking Parker woman" aide
The newspapers made big money
The newsboys made dollars and dimes

083:

Up in the Ozarks
They got the road closed on them
Raymond covered in the floorboards
While Bonnie and Clyde hailed gunfire
And shot their way out again

084:

The Laws "jumped" them at Joplin
Bonnie and Clyde, Blanche, Buck and W.D.
Hailing fire they got away leaving all behind
A trove of "treasure" did the Laws find
The world now with their photos in mind

085:

Clyde wrecked the car and burned Bonnie's leg
It was so bad he feared she'd soon be dead
The pain was so bad but she was tough
She told him she didn't care if she died
That she only wanted to live if he was still by her side

086:

No more could Bonnie after the wreck
Hope to live her old "fast" city lifestyle
Not even to waitress like back awhile
For she was now too crippled
Any life for her would now be a long long mile

087:

Clyde nursed her back but she limped a lot
Buckled at the knees she hobbled around
But she was still a gangster gal
The best navigator, re-loader and "watch" keeper
No one was taking her down

088:

In Platt City they finally needed a rest
And chose two cabins they thought were best
But in the second night the Laws moved in
And in a hail of gun-fire
The "Barrow Gang" escaped again

089:

In Dexfield Park all hell broke loose
While cooking breakfast and tending their wounds
A posse of a hundred came after their "goose"
Bonnie, Clyde and W.D. made it out alive
Blanche and Buck were captured and Buck soon died

090:

Across the river a farmer had a car but no gasoline
But he said it can run awhile on kerosene
That engine sure wasn't running too "clean"
But at least Bonnie, Clyde and W.D. now had a ride
And they got away from Dexfield, out the other side

091:

But W.D had had "enough"
And wanted to go "clean"
So he gave them "the slip"
In another machine
And with them he was never again seen

092:

They drove past the "Station" many a time
Threw a bottle out under the shed
With a note letting their folks know where to head
So they could meet
And spend some family time

093:

Bonnie, ever the school-play queen
Dolled Clyde up in a wig and Maybelline
Like a mighty pretty girl she made him seem
Smiling and waving Laws were totally "took"
If only they knew who was hiding behind that "look"

094:

They changed their cars
And they changed their looks
Dyed hair, sunglasses, switched number plate signs
Bonnie was choreographing the costume-show
While Clyde was choreographing the ride

095:

Back in their day "curb side service" was a thing
So out of "nowhere" they'd just breeze in and pull up
With no need to out of their car get
They'd get serviced right there for their cash
Gasoline, oil, food, drinks, ammunition, and then dash

096:

Meeting their folks at Sowers one time
A "rat" had dropped the Law a line
Hidden for ambush Sheriff Smoot Schmid thought "they're mine"
That was the closest yet Bonnie and Clyde came to dyin'
Pretty Boy Floyd's people helped patch them up fine

097:

Vaseline, salve, whiskey and aspirin
Bandages, gauze, medical tape and Bonnie's hairpin
To soothe burns, clean and help bullet wounds heal
A sewing needle and thread, scissors and such
Their version of a first aid kit insomuch

098:

Down in the prison W.D. started "chirping" away
He had lots he wanted to say
He liked Bonnie but had kinda had enough of Clyde
That's why he decided to leave before he died
And didn't want to get the "Hot-Squat" "inside"

099:

He gave up a lot of the "inside lay"
Information the Laws wanted in every way
To help them get Bonnie and Clyde some day
And implicated them in a whole heap of sin
Hoping to save his own skin

100:

But try as they may the problem was
That Bonnie and Clyde had a rolling arsenal of guns
And a "sack-full" of "tricks" and "puns"
A moving target that would never for long in one place stay
The Laws were having real trouble trying to find a way

101:

On a foggy morning out Eastham Prison Farm
Bonnie and Clyde sprang Raymond and some prisoners that day
And rode away just fine
But they wasted their time
As the crooks all soon left them, going their own ways

102:

But not before Raymond's gal Mary
Had suggested to Bonnie that she poison Clyde
Steal his money and live grand on the loot
But Bonnie was loyal and true to Clyde
If it wasn't for Bonnie, Clyde would have died

103:

Raymond even moved with his gun
To shoot fellow crook Joe in the back as he slept
Clyde spotted Raymond's move and stopped him just in time
Joe then left the gang for staying was no longer fine
Clyde told Raymond Mary could not stay so they both went away

104:

Only one crook stayed Henry was his name
And Bonnie and Clyde thought he was game
But Henry also soon wanted to go
So Clyde threatened him "so"
That was Clyde's big mistake, it was no way to go

105:

Fearful, Henry got cold feet
And started trying on the sly
To work out how to say bye
He told his fears to his father Ivy with a sigh
And Old Man Ivy started plotting to send them "high"

106:

Bonnie and Clyde took fun in their stride
So they sometimes took Laws for a ride
Two Laws to a tree they once tied
One Law helped carry a battery back for Clyde
Another "mad as a wet hen" didn't realize he could have died

107:

But one old Law they took for an extra long ride
For days he camped with them country side
He said he really enjoyed them
He said they were just two young kids running free
He said "they were very good to me"

108:

Clyde brought along his guitar and saxophone
To make him feel at home
You'd think they were just some musicians
Playing by the light of a star
Lest their guns first hinted as to who they really are

109:

Bonnie loved children an awful lot
She'd sometimes see some country kid
At a filling station or grocery store, feeling hot
So she'd buy them an orange crush or soda
Just like people to her as a little kid did

110:

Once for Christmas she got her nephew Buddy a trike
Snuck up to the porch, left it and locked eyes with the tyke
Then she smiled to Buddy, waved and fled
They tried to convince Buddy it was Santa Claus who'd been
But Buddy insisted it was Bonnie he'd seen

111:

Bonnie and Clyde arranged to buy a pony
For Bonnie's little nephew Buddy's surprise
On the morning, Bonnie told Clyde not to bother after all
For during the night Buddy came to her in her dream
And told her that he had died

112:

In streams they bathed
And camped out rough
The life they lead was very tough
Such was the "grift" of the outlaw life
They couldn't risk being spotted and ending in strife

113:

They always tried their best to be clean
Often times past some small town laundry they'd swing
Leaving their clothes for pick up on their return run
Stopping by Tourist Courts for just a quick wash
Then fleeing fast for some place under the stars

114:

Banks they definitely would prefer to rob
But with too few associates it was a tough job
The Laws kept "pruning" Clyde's little gang
Clyde was often left with only one good man
And Bonnie could only "case the place" "lookout" and "wait"

115:

All this meant it was too dangerous to Clyde
To target a bank and go inside
For he could not risk getting caught
So filling stations and grocery stores they thought
Were safer pickings when money was short

116:

A tackle box to catch some fish
A pan to cook whatever they found
But they couldn't spend too much time messing around
The longer they stayed the greater the risk of being found
So a sack of tinned food they always kept around

117:

They had a heart to heart talk where they agreed
That if Clyde was injured and could not run or hide
If capture became imminent
Which to Clyde meant the "Hot-Squat" "inside"
Then Bonnie was to help him suicide

118:

After that she was free to do as she pleased
Capture meant prison for a long time at least
Bonnie knew her "run" ended when Clyde died
She often tossed up whether to live
Or whether she too should just suicide

119:

One thing about Bonnie was very true
That she saved the lives of more than a few
She was a moderating influence
On all those angry young men
Regardless, she stood to spend life in the "Pen"

120:

After the Eastham Farm breakout the Laws
Started tracking Bonnie and Clyde like prey
Trying to figure out a way
To "get them" someday
Without anyone else getting hurt or in the way

121:

They figured Clyde was skirting state lines
Using the "state line rules" to get away
Changing his number plate signs
All making them more elusive prey
But the Law vowed to get them someday

122:

The Law figured out from careful study
And inside information from their ex-buddy
That Bonnie and Clyde valued family time
So they set out investigating that line
Tapping phones and spying they built an information "mine"

123:

But still they could not get close enough
Or catch them in time
But meanwhile Old Man Ivy
Had established a "line"
With Sheriff Henderson Jordan through a "pal" he knew fine

124:

Late one evening in Bienville Parish Louisiana
In front of Rosa Canfield's "American Cafe"
Parked Clyde, came in, sat and ate supper
While Bonnie stayed in the car outside
Clyde was soon finished and to the car he returned

125:

Then Bonnie walked in by herself
With difficulty,
Sat there and ate all alone
Then she got back in the car and off they drove
Hurriedly into the night they were gone

126:

Seven in the morning
After a long nervous night
Back at Rosa's cafe
Bonnie and Clyde sat at a table
Trying to do breakfast right

127:

Lest they not feel too desperate
Bonnie had talked Clyde into going together inside
Doughnuts and coffee they ordered and sat
To share together a moment of normal life
With a knife, fork, napkin and table mat

128:

But Rosa could see
That they were nervous and distraught
Clyde silent with head hung
Morosely gazing at his plate in thought
While Bonnie politely smiled

129:

And asked Rosa for some small service
Thanking her kindly and flashing
Her famous cute heart warming smile
That had once won over so many patrons
Back at Marco's Cafe, back awhile

130:

Bonnie must have reminisced
Back on that "once upon a time"
As she sat there alone
With a silent morose Clyde
At Rosa's that day, passing the time

131:

A day or two later
For sandwiches they again swung by
And Clyde alone went into Rosa's
While Bonnie sat in the car
Watching the world go by

132:

Then they started off down
That dusty dirt road
For it was already nine
And they had to meet Ivy on time
To try once more to find Henry

133:

Then they intended to stop by in Shreveport
To pick up their laundry on their way
Racing back to Dallas
For an evening with their folks
That very same day

134:

Alas, they were sure cutting it fine
As their "little grey machine" nosed over the hill
Racing down a dip
And slowing up a rise
But they were on time

135:

That fateful day "nosing over the hill"
They came racing into sight
Riding right up
To a "broken down truck"
With one wheel on the ground

136:

Beside which stood Old Man Ivy
That "stool pidgeon", "spotter" and "rat"
Who last night had told Sheriff Jordan
He'd be meeting them on this road
On the 'morrow, morning, 'tween nine and ten

137:

"Have you seen Henry? "
He called to them as they stopped
To the six Laws hiding in the brush
THIS was the definite "spot"
Alcorn was especially mad

138:

Two rifle shots Oakley fired
And Clyde was dead "on the spot"
Bonnie screamed in horror
Then the Law's "let the bitch have it"
With volleys of fire from all of their "rods"

139:

In the noise and smoke
Of that deafening din
Gault called out "careful Cap't"
"they might be possumin"
But Bonnie and Clyde had just got their "wages of sin"

140:

Ted shot a roadside movie
Of his one-time "wet dream"
As she lay up against Clyde
Her dead eyes looking out at him
While the other Laws rifled through the "tin"

141:

Then in the company of a "convoy"
Of some two-hundred cars
Of "gawkers", "ghouls" and "sim"
They were towed into Arcadia
For coroner Dr Wade and the rest of the "admin"

142:

Of a nude Bonnie the "photographer" took "boobie shots"
"why let it go to waste? "
The local newspapers "plastered them"
On their very front page next day
Such was their "dollar sign" haste

143:

That night a father and a brother
Left the "Circus Maximus" behind
Taking with them
One a son, the other his "little sis"
Back to Dallas for burial "in kind"

144:

Oh, it was a "Roman Holliday"
Complete with ice-cream and hot-dog stands
As "tens of thousands"
Filed past their caskets
Heads bowed and hats in hand

145:

To pay their respects
Or just "drop in" for a "look"
At two colorful outlaws
How could they resist?
For Bonnie and Clyde were such a "hook"!

146:

At sundown on Friday
Clyde was laid to rest
Beside his brother Buck
There he was stuck
"Gone But Not Forgotten"

147:

Even a plane flew over
Dropping flowers for him
The underworlds best
For he was their "kin"
But with all of his sin he did not win

148:

Dawned the next morning and after more mourning
Under the afternoon Sun's unpitying eye
Bonnie took her last ride home, to Fishtrap Road Cemetery
Just down the road from the Krause farm
Down at the grave-yard she could now peacefully lie

149:

No more running and hiding
And crying for her "Mumma"
Or worrying she'd get the "rap"
"It's all over now, THANK GOD"
Sighed her heartbroken mother as she wept

150:

And on her grave
Emma wrote her daughter Bonnie
The most beautiful epitaph
The kind only a mother can write
For a beautiful daughter she once had

151:

"As the flowers are all made sweeter
By the sunshine and the dew
So this old world
Is made brighter
By the lives of folks like you"

END

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

Outlaws (Bonnie Talks To Clyde Barrow Through Billy The Kid)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

Billy rode on a pinto horse
"Billy The Kid" I mean
And he met Clyde Barrow riding
In a "little grey machine"

02:

Billy drew his bridle rein
And Barrow stopped his car
And the dead man talked to the living man
Under the "Morning Star"

03:

Billy said to the Barrow boy
Is this the way you ride
In a car that does it's "ninety per"
Machine guns at each side?

04:

I only had my pinto horse
And my six-gun tried and true
I could shoot but they got me
And some day they will get you!

05:

For the men who live like you and me
Are playing a losing game
And the way we shoot, or the way we ride
Is all about the same

06:

And the like of us may never hope
For death to set us free
For the living are always after you
And the dead are after me

07:

Then out of the East arose the sound
Of hoof-beats with the dawn
And Billy pulled his rein and said
I must be moving on

08:

And out of the West came the glare of a light
And the drone of a "motor's song"
And Barrow set his foot on the gas
And shouted back "So long"

09:

So into the East Clyde Barrow rode
And Billy into the West
The living man who can know no peace
And the dead who can know no rest

END

Historical note:

Bonnie probably wrote this poem at some time after the realization of Clyde's inevitable doom had become clear, as well as the fact that Clyde had been playing a losing game all along. This would most probably be in the time period September 1933 to May 1934.

In this poem Bonnie 'puts words' into 'Billy The Kid's' mouth, and through Billy she tells Clyde how she feels about Clyde's 'life's journey'.

The last time Bonnie spoke to another person (other than Clyde) , was to a young boy, two days before she was killed. Her words to that boy were: "Never go crooked, It's for the love of a man that I'm gonna have to die, I don't know when, but I know it can't be long".

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

The Fate Of Tiger Rose (Incomplete) (Bonnie, Her Alter Ego)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

Yeah, she looks old and bent
And her years are spent
Walking the "prison yards"
But once she was fair
With golden hair
Tho her eyes were some what hard

02:

Once she smiled
Like a carefree child
And, back of the wreck that is her
Is the old old story
Of a woman's glory
And love for a "no good cur"

03:

"Two Timer McColl"
Came West with his "moll"
And his "moll" was "Tiger Rose"
A woman of shame
Who played a hard game
Up stairs over "Smokey Joe's"

04:

For she was the "bait"
That laid in wait
For "suckers"
With money to blow
On the "Farris Wheel"
Run by "Jack Pot O'Neal"

.....Missing Stanzas.....

"Jack Pot O'Neal"
At the "Farris Wheel"
Makes a grab for a hidden "gat"
"McColl" let go
And "Pat" sags low
As the "sub" went "rat-tat-tat"

.....Missing Stanzas.....

In court
She took all the blame
For she was the "moll"
Of "Two Timer McColl"
And she lost
At a "crooked game"

END

Historical Note:

This poem was written by Bonnie during April, May and June 1932, while she was in the Kaufman jail, at the very beginning of her gangster gal life.

This poem appears in a bank book (The First National Bank Of Burkburnett Texas) , into which Bonnie wrote ten poems while in jail (five of her own and five other folk poems) . Hopefully the rest of this poem (contained in full in this bank book) , will be made available at some stage in the future.

Another poem in this same bank book was "The Story Of Suicide Sal", which Bonnie later improved to a more polished version and which was captured by police in Joplin in April 1933 and published in the newspapers.

"The Fate Of Tiger Rose" does not appear elsewhere and Bonnie probably let it rest because working in clubs was not the direction her gangster gal life took, but rather bank robberies which is the theme of "The Story Of Suicide Sal". Bonnie alludes to the different personalities you need, for stealing and robberies (you need to be suicidal)and for working the clubs (you need to be a tiger) . But Bonnie tells us in both "The Story Of Suicide Sal" and in "The Fate Of Tiger Rose", that she expects to be the loser in her life of crime, just like she was the loser in her marriage to Roy.

She also tells us that she is anticipating from the outset that her 'thug boss' partners will not be loyal to her. Again developing from her fear of abandonment the need to anticipate that she will be 'played'. So in "The Fate Of Tiger Rose" Bonnie tells us this through the name she chooses for her 'thug boss', "Two Timer McColl". While in "The Story Of Suicide Sal" Bonnie makes her anticipation of disloyalty to her by "Jack" a central theme of the poem.

In both poems "The Story Of Suicide Sal" and "The Fate Of Tiger Rose", Bonnie clearly tells that she will always act in the best interests of her 'thug boss' and that her full loyalty will always be to her 'thug boss' and not to her 'employers', in these poems that is not to the bank nor to "Jack Pot O'Neil".

01:

Here (like in "Suicide Sal" "The Street Girl" and "The Prisoner") Bonnie puts in a little of her 'self description', again with her negative self image 'her eyes were somewhat hard'.

02:

Once she was happy until she got abandoned by her "no good cur" husband Roy.

03:

Following abandonment by her husband Roy, Bonnie styles herself "a woman of shame" and tells us she "plays a hard game".

04:

Bonnie shows she accurately understands her feminine role as "the bait" and that her job is to use her feminine wiles to get suckers to blow their money.

Last Stanza:

Here Bonnie confirms that she understands the expectation of her to if necessary 'take the fall' for her 'thug boss' and tells us that she expects to be the loser in her life of crime.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

The Prisoner (Bonnie, Her Imagined End After Clyde Is Killed)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

Dull the prison walls were gleaming
In the moonbeams golden glow
On that lonely July evening
Near a couple of years ago

02:

And behind the steel barred windows
Stood a prisoner just a girl
With her fearless blue eyes weeping
Haunting for the outside world

03:

All along the moonlit spaces
Stealthy shadows softly crept
Till at length exhausted prisoners
Closed their weary eyes and slept

04:

Came a hand laid on her shoulder
And her buddy ill at ease
Lest her friend be too despondent
So she then began to tease

05:

"Come my pal and sit beside me
Tell me what is on your mind
You have shared with me your pleasures
Now your sorrow should be mine"

06:

Said the sad one for an answer
Dear my time is almost done
Now I leave you on the morrow
By the setting of the sun

07:

Fair you are my little partner
What a pal you've always been
And upon my sad departure
You will take my ownings then

08:

Send my letters back to mother
They are tokens of her love
Tell her dear to please don't worry
I will wait for her above

09:

Tell her that I love her dearly
Make a promise now to me
That you'll go and live with mother
Make her happy when you're free

10:

Here's a picture of my darling
I shall trust unto your keep
He was killed when I was captured
Now he rests in peaceful sleep

11:

All those years I stayed beside him
For my love for him was true
And I was tried unjustly
For a crime I didn't do

12:

All this time I've been in prison
Days & nites have been so blue
Till I have begun to wonder
If the tales of God are true

13:

When the skies are grey above me
And the earth is cold & grim
And when all my tears and pleadings
Brings no answer down from him

14:

Dawned the next relentless morning
And the sun's unpitying eye
Looked upon the haggard prisoner
Looked to see her slowly die

15:

All day long the mournful whispers
Came from prisoners clad in grey
Mournful whispers for the deed
And whose pardon came that day

16:

Dull the prison walls are gleaming
In the moonbeams golden light
Shadows on another convict
At the cold steel bars tonight

17:

Many be the innocent victims
And their sorrows are not few
Who have sacrificed their freedom
For a crime they didn't do

END

Historical Note:

In this poem written near the end, in the spring of 1934, Bonnie Parker foretells her own end, after she "goes down" with Clyde Barrow and is captured after Clyde is killed.

But the end Bonnie predicted for herself in this poem, was not to be. A few seconds after Clyde was killed with two rifle shots, Bonnie, screaming (in shock, confusion and horror, followed by anger and rage) , died in a volley of bullets, as six "Laws" unloaded every gun they had, at a car in which sat a screaming Bonnie, sitting beside a dead Clyde.

01:

In this poem Bonnie looks back from the future, as if being her own story teller, back to the night in prison before her execution, the day of her execution and the nightfall again following her execution. The timespan of this poem is some 24 hours.

02:

Bonnie tells us in this poem that she was fearless, although she was weeping and wishing she was free.

03:

Bonnie imagines that the prisoners are all housed together in one big communal room, where they can move around and socialize with each other. This seems to have been the case for Clyde in the Huntsville penitentiary and Clyde would have told Bonnie about what prison was like for him and Bonnie will have assumed that it would be the same situation for her.

04:

Bonnie again alludes to her fear of abandonment by imagining that in prison she will find a buddy who will care for her and be there to comfort her in her moments of need.

05:

Bonnie's rationale is that if someone has shared their good times with you, then you are expected to share their bad times with them also. Bonnie's loyalty was based on this rationale. Clyde shared his good times with Bonnie and as a result Bonnie considered herself obligated to also share the bad times with Clyde as well. Out of fear of abandonment Bonnie was a pal to others as a reflection of her need for others to be pals to her.

06:

Bonnie tells her prison pal that her time has come to an end and that she will be executed tomorrow before the sun sets. This is Bonnie's imagined prison situation. In reality Bonnie would be held in isolation in the days before her execution with no contact with other prisoners.

07:

Bonnie is informing her prison pal that following her execution, her prison pal will take possession of Bonnie's property. This is Bonnie's imagination of the course of events. In reality Bonnie's property would be collected by prison officials and either destroyed or turned over to Bonnie's next of kin.

08:

Bonnie so beautifully says how the letters from a mother are tokens of a mother's love and asks her prison pal to save them and return them to her mother. And to tell her mother to not worry, that she will be waiting for her in the afterworld.

09:

Here Bonnie seems to be delirious with sadness and romanticism, writing that her prison pal should promise to go and live with Bonnie's mother when she gets out free. As if Bonnie's mother would necessarily welcome Bonnie's prison pal living with her. One could however read this as a confusedly written counsel, that one's mother is the greatest treasure that one has and that Bonnie advises her prison pal to go and live with her own mother and make her happy when she is free.

10:

In this poem Bonnie tells us that she expected to be captured when Clyde was killed. All she now has left of her darling Clyde is a picture and this picture is her most treasured possession. Again Bonnie is delirious with sadness and romanticism, as the picture has little meaning to Bonnie's prison pal and it is unclear as to why Bonnie would be imposing on her prison pal to keep her treasured picture, for whom and for what purpose? Bonnie could have told her prison pal to also send the picture to her mother along with the letters. This apart from the fact that Bonnie knew Clyde's pictures as well as her own had been widely published in newspapers and were therefore safely archived.

11:

She confirms that she stayed with Clyde through it all, because her love for him was true. She tells us that she considers herself "tried unjustly" by the law, where in her mind, her only real "crime" was her 'love for a man'.

In Bonnie's time, women were not expected to live independently, and for most women it was impossible unless they were able to find some of the few women's jobs available, and then at poor pay, so that they were in perpetual poverty. So the society of that time trained women to give themselves up completely to their man, regardless of whether he was 'wrong or right', and to stay by his side 'for better or worse' till 'death do us part'.

Bonnie fulfilled those teachings 'to the letter'. She always 'followed' Clyde and 'deferred' to his lead in all things and was never the leader or instigator herself. Although she was a dogged and loyal follower and helper to Clyde in his 'life's journey', as she had been 'trained by society' that a woman to a man should be.

She considered that the Law by which she was being tried legally, as an 'accomplice', was not fair in consideration of the social teachings of women and women's enforced place in society. In this way she felt, in her mind, "tried unjustly for a crime I didn't do".

The last time Bonnie spoke with another person (other than Clyde) was with a young boy, two days before she was killed. Her words to this boy were: "never go crooked, it's for the love of a man that I'm gonna have to die, I don't know when, but I know it can't be long".

12: and 13:

Bonnie tells us in this poem that she feels that God has abandoned her. Although she never abandoned God herself and when she was killed with Clyde in the ambush, she was wearing a cross and also a three acorn brooch representing the holy trinity.

14:

She also tells us that she expected to "slowly die" in the electric chair.

15:

There is no happiness on Bonnie's final day. The prisoners are both mournful for those who got the 'deed of execution' for their sad fate and also mournful for themselves staying behind as others got their pardons.

16:

And so that night Bonnie is no longer there, she's 'left the house' her traces 'washed away' to oblivion. Bonnie's place at the same cold steel bars is taken by some other prisoner, just as Bonnie had taken the place of some other prisoner before her.

17:

This is perhaps the last poem stanza that Bonnie ever wrote. It is very moving as Bonnie's otherwise neat handwriting suddenly breaks into a shaky scrawl at this last stanza, indicating that she has become emotionally overwhelmed when writing this stanza and is probably writing while sobbing heavily.

Towards the end, sensationalized newspaper writeups about Bonnie, especially those concerning the killing of the two motorcycle officers at Grapevine Dallas Texas on Easter Sunday 1934, which were based on false testimony by an 'eyewitness', that claimed Bonnie had walked up to the officers lying on the ground and executed them 'point blank', devastated Bonnie. She was very emotional about being accused of something she didn't do.

Bonnie would also have known about the long prison term Blanche got, which Bonnie would have felt most unfair, as Blanche had only been tagging behind her husband Buck Barrow and was otherwise, unlike Bonnie, not a participating gang member.

Bonnie felt she didn't stand a chance in court, with all the false accusations being published about her, and was distraught about being falsely accused.

It is unknown whether Bonnie knew that her sister Billie had been arrested some five days before Bonnie was killed. There seems to be information that indicates Bonnie and Clyde were contacting with Billie and other accomplices in the weeks and days leading up to their deaths. It is very possible that Bonnie was aware. It is thus quite possible that this poem was written by Bonnie sometime in April and May 1934 and quite possibly in the seventeen day period between the time Bonnie and Clyde last saw their families and their deaths.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

The Prostitutes Convention (Incomplete)(Bonnie, Her ' Happy World ')

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

You have heard of big "conventions"
And there's some you can't forget
But get this straight, there's none so great
As when the "prostitutes" met

02:

To a "joint" on "Harwood St" last year
They came from far and near
From "behind the barn" in "stolen cars"
The damn "broads" gathered here

03:

Three hundred came from North Dallas
Some came from Akard Street
Of all the "Parades of Fashion"
Not a "Paris" shop could compete

04:

From the "Ivy Hotel" came "Billie"
And "Bess the Katyclid"
With "maniac Mag" from the "Elm St drag"
Came the "San Jacinto Kid"

05:

"Bashful Bill" and "Hain-lip Lil"
Blew in with "Hell Fine Jack"
"Wanda Jane" from the "Pearl St Gang"
"Estelle" from the "Live Oak Track"

06:

I saw some "hides" I'd never met
A "frail" called "West End Rose"
With "Pearl and Pauline" from the "Josephine"
Came a gal dubbed "Mopin Mose"

07:

"Big Imogene" dressed like a "queen"
Made friends with "Baby Red"
While "North Side Nell" "lit up" like hell
Drank "jack" with "East Side Ed"

08:

While "Lonesome Lou" and "Subway Sue"
Along with "Mamphid Min"
and "Martha Lin"
"shook up" some damn good "gin"

09:

"Hop Head Het" spilled out a song
Composed by Kathelene
While.....
..... missing stanzas.....

END

Historical Note:

This poem is based in the city center of Dallas Texas in a time period circa 1928 to 1932, during which time Bonnie worked as a Dallas "street girl". The street names mentioned in this poem are all actual street names in Dallas. Bonnie describes the colorful nature and personalities of the prostitutes and admires how well dressed they are.

This poem was written by Bonnie during April, May and June 1932, while she was in Kaufman jail, into a bank book (The First National Bank Of Burkburnett Texas) , into which she wrote ten poems (five of her own poems and five folk poems) .

This poem shows that Bonnie was immersed in the camaraderie of the street girl life. Bonnie left this street girl life where she was her own boss, for the life of a gangster gal where someone else was the boss (Clyde) , where she had no control over the evolving events that led her to her doom. She would have been much better off if she had stayed a street girl, she realized this eventually but by that time it was too late to turn back, so she decided to "stick it out till the last".

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

The Story Of Suicide Sal (Bonnie, Her Alter Ego And C.V. To Join Clyde's Gang)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

We each of us have a good "alibi"
For being down here in the "joint"
But few of them really are justified
If you get right down to the point

02:

You've heard of a woman's glory
Being spent on a "downright cur"
Still you can't always judge the story
As true, being told by her

03:

As long as I've stayed on this "island"
And heard "confidence tales" from each "gal"
Only one seemed interesting and truthful-
The story of "Suicide Sal"

04:

Now "Sal" was a gal of rare beauty
Though her features were coarse and tough
She never once faltered from duty
To play on the "up and up"

05:

"Sal" told me this tale on the evening
Before she was turned out "free"
And I'll do my best to relate it
Just as she told it to me

06:

I was born on a ranch in Wyoming
Not treated like Helen of Troy
I was taught that "rods were rulers"
And "ranked" as a greasy cowboy

07:

Then I left my old home for the city
To play in it's mad dizzy whirl
Not knowing how little of pity
It holds for a country girl

08:

There I fell for "the line" of a "henchman"
A "professional killer" from "Chi"
I couldn't help loving him madly
For him even I would die

09:

One year we were desperately happy
Our "ill gotten gains" we spent free
I was taught the ways of the "underworld"
Jack was just like a "God" to me

10:

I got on the "F.B.A." payroll
To get the "inside lay" of the "job"
The bank was "turning big money"
It looked like a "cinch for the mob"

11:

Eighty grand without even a "rumble"
Jack was last with the "loot" in the door
When the "teller" dead-aimed a revolver
From where they forced him to lie on the floor

12:

I knew I had only a moment-
He would surely get Jack as he ran
So I "staged" a "big fade out" beside him
And knocked the forty-five out of his hand

13:

They "rapped me down big" at the station
And informed me that I'd get the blame
For the "dramatic stunt" pulled on the "teller"
Looked to them, too much like a "game"

14:

The "police" called it a "frame up"
Said it was an "inside job"
But I steadily denied any knowledge
Or dealings with "underworld mobs"

15:

The "gang" hired a couple of lawyers
The best "fixers" in any mans town
But it takes more than lawyers and money
When Uncle Sam starts "shaking you down"

16:

I was charged as a "scion of gangland"
And tried for my wages of sin
The "dirty dozen" found me guilty-
From five to fifty years in the pen

17:

I took the "rap" like good people
And never one "squawk" did I make
Jack "dropped himself" on the promise
That we make a "sensational break"

18:

Well, to shorten a sad lengthy story
Five years have gone over my head
Without even so much as a letter-
At first I thought he was dead

19:

But not long ago I discovered
From a gal in the joint named Lyle
That Jack and his "moll" had "got over"
And were living in true "gangster style"

20:

If he had returned to me sometime
Though he hadn't a cent to give
I'd forget all the hell that he's caused me
And love him as long as I lived

21:

But there's no chance of his ever coming
For he and his moll have no fears
But that I will die in this prison
Or "flatten" this fifty years

22:

Tomorrow I'll be on the "outside"
And I'll "drop myself" on it today
I'll "bump" 'em, if they give me the "hot squat"
On this island out here in the bay...

23:

The iron doors swung wide next morning
For a gruesome woman of waste
Who at last had a chance to "fix it"
Murder showed in her cynical face

24:

Not long ago I read in the paper
That a gal on the East Side got "hot"
And when the smoke finally retreated
Two of gangdom were found "on the spot"

25:

It related the colorful story
Of a "jilted gangster gal"
Two days later, a "sub-gun" ended
The story of "Suicide Sal"

END

Historical Note:

In this poem Bonnie uses a fantasy bank heist to describe how she would function as a gangster gal, with "Suicide Sal" being her alter ego, while "Jack" in the poem is Clyde Barrow.

The first known version of "Suicide Sal" appears in a small bank book (First National Bank Of Burkburnett Texas) , which was likely given to her by an uncle

(brother of her father Charles Parker) , who lived in Burkburnett and likely came to visit her in Kaufman jail.

Into this bank book Bonnie wrote poems during her three month stay in Kaufman jail during April, May and June 1932. This final and more polished version was captured by police in Joplin in April 1933 and published in newspapers at that time.

The other poem captured at the same time in Joplin was "The Street Girl", which was Bonnie's autobiographical account of her life as a Dallas street girl, before she joined Clyde's gang.

01:

Bonnie acknowledges that ultimately most of the people in jail, deserve to be there. She also notes however in another poem "The Prisoner" that there are quite a few people who have been deprived of their freedom consequent to being 'tried unjustly' for crimes they did not do.

02:

Bonnie touches again on her abandonment by her "downright cur" husband Roy.

03:

Bonnie implores that unlike other gals tales, her tale is true.

04:

Bonnie touches again on her negative 'self-image' issues, that she considers her features course and tough. Bonnie tells that she's always striving to be the best she can be.

06:

Bonnie tells that she was not happy with the way she was treated out there in her 'Wyoming' (code for 'back of beyond') , out there on her grand parent's farm across the Trinity river in rural West Dallas. While "Rods" normally stands for guns, but in this case it refers to all the spankings she got there. She felt that she "ranked" as a "greasy cowboy", in other words she felt like a food stealing itinerant, that her extended family impressed on her the huge favor they were doing to her by taking her in after her father died. That they acted like they were keeping 'tabs' on everything they were spending on her like she was some undeserving leacher. Her mother Emma was away at work every day and Bonnie was at the mercy of her other relatives. As a result Bonnie clung to her mother as her 'only champion' in the 'sea' of relatives.

This is indirectly corroborated by her mother in her book 'Fugitives' where Emma says that Bonnie would let her clothes get threadbare and Emma would often have to go do Bonnie's clothes shopping for her. In other words, Bonnie felt so 'knocked down' she gave up even asking for new clothes and just silently let her clothes run down until others started feeling embarrassed and decided it was time to get her some new ones.

Another story Emma relates in 'Fugitives' is also telling, where Bonnie keeps getting her pencil stolen at school (she was only allowed one pencil every two weeks) , and they keep spanking Bonnie at home for 'not being able to hold on to her pencil', until Bonnie gets angry enough and beats up those stealing her pencil. Her mother Emma says that Bonnie 'fought her way through school'. Yet Bonnie was the top of her class and the interschool junior 'spelling-bee' champion. It seems that Bonnie found her 'escape' in learning.

That Bonnie often paid out of her own money for food she gave free to people who claimed to be penniless and starving, while she worked at Marco's Cafe, seems to have been her way of 'overcompensating' for the meanness she felt she suffered with food as a child. Bonnie's sister Billie described Bonnie as a 'kind' person. Blanche noted Bonnie could be mean. From the above, obviously both are true. Bonnie's excessive kindness to others was an 'overcompensation for her own hurt inside'.

07:

Bonnie tells that she was not overly fond of her 'fast' life in the city.

08:

Bonnie describes Clyde colorfully as a "henchman" a "professional killer" from "Chi", in other words a thug boss, who's a professional lady-killer, winning girls over with his handsome looks and suave style, while dressed Chicago style 'to the nines'.

09:

She tells us she's hoping to get at least a one year 'run' of it before she is arrested. Bonnie confirms that Clyde is her mentor in her life as a gangster gal and that she idolizes and worships Clyde.

10:

If only. Bonnie would likely never be able to get on a bank's payroll in such a temporary way with her level of education. But with this fantasy Bonnie indicates her preparedness to 'case the place'. In Clyde's reply to Bonnie's poem "The

Trail's End", Clyde confirms that "Bonnie will always help me when I am casing a job".

12:

Here Bonnie confirms that she will always act selflessly and can be trusted to act autonomously, to the best of her ability in Clyde's favor. She confirms here that she understands the expectation of her to always act for the benefit of Clyde. Bonnie acted in Clyde's favor when Raymond Hamilton's girlfriend Mary O'Dare counselled Bonnie to poison Clyde and steal his money. In that instance Bonnie saved Clyde's life. Bonnie was Clyde's most trustworthy companion.

13:

Bonnie confirms that she does not underestimate or take the police as fools and that she expects them to realize the true nature of her actions.

14:

Bonnie assures that even if faced with the obvious, she will never admit to partnering with a criminal or being part of an organized crime group, and will unwaveringly insist she is innocent.

15:

Bonnie confirms, wisely and cynically, that she well understands that when things get serious with the authorities, a few corrupt lawyers and officials are not going to be of much help. Bonnie is very realistic and confirms here that she is joining Clyde knowing from the outset that Clyde's game is a losing game. She tells this beautifully in her later poem "Outlaws".

16:

She tells us that she expects to go to jail for a lengthy period of time for this one year 'run'. Bonnie tells us that her going bad for this 'run' with Clyde, is her "Suicide". What motivated Bonnie to decide to ruin her life this way? She confirms in this poem that she is knowingly and willingly paying the price of many years jail for just a one year 'run'. A very high price to pay for such a short time of happiness. That such a short time of happiness meant so much to Bonnie that she was prepared to sacrifice her life for it is very moving and so sad.

17:

Bonnie tells us what she would be prepared to do and how far she would be prepared to go, silently to jail for however long and take the full rap while keeping her mouth shut and not making a single 'squawk'.

18:

Bonnie confirms that in case Clyde was dead or otherwise unable to communicate with her, that she accepted that she would serve out her sentence alone in jail.

19:

But Bonnie warns that if Clyde chose to 'live large' and forget her, that she would not forgive him.

20:

In this poem Bonnie acknowledges that she expects to get nothing from this big bank heist for herself, but a lengthy jail term, and all she asks for in return is for "Jack" to not forget her and to return to her sometime. She says that if "Jack" returned to her sometime, even if he had nothing to give her, she'd forget all the trouble he caused her and love him for as long as she lived.

21:

Still, Bonnie cynically tells that she expects to be completely forgotten by "Jack" while she's in jail. She confronts her fear of abandonment by forming an advance expectation to be abandoned.

After her husband Roy abandoned her, her fear of abandonment came true. Her clinginess to Roy was probably partly what chased Roy away, a kind of self fulfilling prophesy.

Bonnie clung to her mother Emma from when she was a child. Emma understood how delicate her daughter Bonnie was and to her credit she never abandoned Bonnie, even right to the bitter end, Emma was always there for Bonnie. Emma's epitaph to Bonnie on her grave is telling: "As the flowers are all made sweeter by the sunshine and the dew, so this old world is made brighter by the lives of folks like you".

Bonnie indirectly alluded to her fear of abandonment in a letter she sent to Clyde while he was in prison in Huntsville, in which she said she would gladly swap places with him in prison if she could go in and he could come out, but that if she did that he would probably soon forget her.

To Clyde's credit, he never abandoned her, even towards the end when she was crippled. Bonnie, regardless of all the hardships of living on the run, was living her best life with Clyde. She loved him, worshipped him, trusted him not to abandon her, and felt at peace to die with her love.

22:

But if he chose to forget her and went living it up with someone else, and did not return to her, she'd be so mad, she'd want to kill them both, even if it meant the electric chair for her.

23:

When she finally got out of jail...

24:

She would stalk them and kill them.

25:

At the end of the poem Bonnie tells, "a sub-gun ended the story of Suicide Sal". She leaves open whose sub-gun. From the flow of the poem one seems invited to think it is a gangland sub-gun taking revenge on "Suicide Sal". But it could also be the sub-gun of the law where "Suicide Sal" refuses to surrender and be caught. The third possibility open is that "Suicide Sal" takes her own life with the sub-gun in preference to getting caught and getting the electric chair.

Purpose Of This Poem:

Bonnie is writing this poem to indirectly indicate to Clyde that she is just as crazy and suicidal as he is, and that he had better not cross her or play her, or else. And also to indicate to Clyde that she fully understands the expectation of her to remain silent and take the full rap if necessary, without implicating anyone else.

Bonnie is fanatically serious in her expectation of loyalty and to sense of duty. At the time Bonnie first wrote this poem, while she was in Kaufman jail, she was still in effect only a kind of 'prospect' for Clyde's gang and was only joining Clyde intermittently. This poem serves in effect as Bonnie's 'personal background' and 'job application CV', to join Clyde's gang.

As it turned out, Bonnie was Clyde's most trustworthy and dependable gang member, right to the very end, when they were living together 'hour by hour' expecting their imminent death, which finally came at the hands of law enforcement at 9: 15am on 23 May 1934, ambushing their car and killing them both just outside of Sailes in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

The Street Girl (Bonnie, Her Account Of Her Life As A Dallas Street Girl)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

You don't want to marry me, Honey
Though just to hear you ask me is sweet
If you did you'd regret it tomorrow
For I'm only a girl of the street

02:

Time was when I'd gladly have listened
Before I was tainted with shame
But it wouldn't be fair to you, Honey
Men laugh when they mention my name

03:

Back there on the farm in Nebraska
I might have said, "yes" to you then
But I thought that the world was a playground
Just teeming with Santa Claus men

04:

So I left the old home for the city
To play in it's mad dizzy whirl
Never knowing how little of pity
It holds for a slip of a girl

05:

You think I'm still good-looking, Honey?
But no, I am faded and spent
Even Helen of Troy would look seedy
If she followed the pace that I went

06:

But that day I came in from the country
With my hair down my back in a curl
Through the length and breadth of the city
There was never a prettier girl

07:

I soon got a job in the chorus
With nothing but looks and a form
I had a new man every evening
And my kisses were thrilling and warm

08:

I might have sold them for a fortune
To some old Sugar Daddy with dough
But youth calls to youth for it's lover-
There was plenty that I didn't know

09:

Then I fell for the "line" of a "junkie"
A slim devotee of hop
And those dreams in the juice of a poppy
Had got me before I could stop

10:

But I didn't care while he loved me
Just to lie in his arms was delight
But his ardor grew cold and he left me
In a Chinatown "hop Joint" one nite

11:

Well I didn't care then what happened
A Chinese man took me under his wing
And down in a hovel of Hell-
I labored for hop and Ah-Sing

12:

Oh, no, I'm no longer a "Junker"
The Police came and got me one day
And I took the one cure that is certain
That island out there in the bay

13:

Don't spring that old gag of reforming
A girl hardly ever comes back
Too many are eager and waiting
To guide her feet off of the track

14:

A man can break every commandment
And the world still will lend him a hand
Yet, a girl that has loved, but un-wisely
Is an outcast all over the land

15:

You see how it is, don't you Honey?
I'd marry you now if I could
I'd go with you back to the country
But I know it won't do any good

16:

For I'm only a poor branded woman
And I can't get away from the past
Good-by, and God bless you for asking
But I'll stick it out now till the last

END

Historical Note:

This poem is Bonnie's own account of her 'fast' life as a Dallas 'street girl'. The time period covered is circa 1928 to early 1932. During 1928 and 1929 Bonnie also worked at Marco's Cafe, an upmarket cafe in downtown Dallas, on Main Street by the Dallas court house, where she has a beautiful posed professional photo of her behind the counter serving Sheriff Hal Hood, no less.

During 1928 to 1930 Bonnie always carried her personal Smith & Wesson, Model 10, Two Inch, .38 caliber pistol. After this was confiscated by the police when she went to visit Clyde in jail, she replaced it with a Colt, Detective Special, .38 caliber pistol, which she always carried and which was found taped to her inner thigh right up by her crotch, "where no gentleman officer would look", on the day she was killed.

She was noted as always being well dressed in a way that could not be accounted for by a waitress salary. On the back of Bonnie's own typewritten copy of this poem (captured by the police at Joplin) , she is practicing her signature "Bonnie Parker" and also her 'street girl' alias signature "Bonnie Jean". Her younger sister's first names are 'Billie Jean'. This was a clever tactic to confuse

people following Bonnie, with her sister (sorry there's no Bonnie Jean here but we do have a Billie Jean) . It's similar to the tactic of a number of people all using the same name.

01:

Bonnie tells that she is not interested in suitors. But she loves to hear them ask her. But she assures them that if they did they would soon regret it, as they are only really fired up by their lust for her 'street girl' image and persona, not the real Bonnie behind the image.

02:

Bonnie had a very strong feeling that she was forever now "tainted with shame" because her husband Roy had abandoned her. But she tells that she now even more so, feels like a "woman of shame" who would only be an embarrassment to any man she would marry, and that she did not want to hurt an innocent man, this way.

Bonnie was brought up with church and sunday-school and had taken in their social messaging very profoundly and literally. So much so that while still a very small child, she had already begun to notice the hypocrisy between teaching and reality. So when asked to sing a church song she had practiced for the congregation she instead stunned everyone by singing "he's a devil in his own home town".

Even though she was abandoned by her husband, it was not her who had abandoned him, so she made up her mind to continue to wear her wedding ring and was wearing it on the day she was killed. Towards the end, Bonnie also felt abandoned by God, but it was not her who had abandoned Him, on the day she was killed she was wearing a cross and also a three acorn brooch representing the holy trinity.

03:

In this poem Bonnie mentions Nebraska in the sense of "out there in the back of beyond". Bonnie's actual "Nebraska" was her grandparent's little farm on Fishtrap Road in rural West Dallas across the Trinity river from Dallas City.

04:

In this poem Bonnie alludes to having lived a 'fast' 'adult' life in the city after Roy left her. But she also notes that there was a difference between her dreams and the reality she found.

05:

Bonnie was very sensitive about her looks. She had negative 'body image' issues. Bonnie confirms here that she lived 'fast' and 'hard'. She always did! She was the top of her class at school, the best and friendliest most willing to please waitress, the best 'street girl' and 'adult' companion and then the best and most loyal 'gangster gal' companion to Clyde Barrow.

06:

She says that she came into the city with "my hair down my back in a curl" in the sense that she came into the city 'innocent' and 'naive' to it's ways. Bonnie always had short hair in the 'flapper' style. Here Bonnie confirms that she was self-aware that she was pretty.

07:

Bonnie confirms in this poem that with her pretty looks she soon got a job in the 'chorus' which is code for the 'adult' life of the city. She confirms that she was highly sought after by clients and that she satisfied them well "my kisses were thrilling and warm".

08:

In this poem Bonnie confirms she understood her value well, and that she knew well that if she wanted to, she could 'sell' her looks and form to an "old Sugar Daddy with dough" but that "youth calls to youth for it's lover", and that it was a complex issue of positives and negatives, either way, and many not so obvious, "there was plenty that I didn't know".

09:

In this poem Bonnie alludes to trying drugs and being in love with a 'junkie'.

10:

This 'junkie' abandoned her when he got bored with her.

11:

Someone 'saved her' but it came with a 'catch', she had to work for the hop she was addicted to. So Bonnie would turn up there at times she could spare and work for her hop.

12:

This went on until she ended up being arrested by the police and taken down to the jail. She gave it up after that.

13:

She warns in the poem that very few girls 'come back' once they go down that slippery slope, even if they say they will, it's just words, there's just too much temptation.

14:

Then Bonnie emphasizes how much Roy's abandonment has affected her by alluding to the intense social shame of divorce, and how men in general are held to such unfairly different standards to women, she sees it all the time in her 'fast' city life: "a man can break every commandment and the world still will lend him a hand. Yet, a girl that has loved, but un-wisely, is an outcast all over the land."

15:

Bonnie tells us that she feels it's pointless for her to re-marry, as when people find out about her past, she will just be an embarrassment to any man, some time in the future, especially so in any small country place.

16:

So she had resolved that she did not want to deal with this and had given up all ambition to re-marry. But heart-breakingly, Bonnie so kindly thanks all her would be suitors: "Good-bye, and God bless you for asking." She had the example of her mother Emma who was widowed and decided never to re-marry. Like her mother, Bonnie also decided to "stick it out now till the last". That is, to go her own way till the end.

Additional Notes:

Bonnie was a very beautiful and cute girl. But she had 'body image issues'. She considered that her features were coarse and tough and that her eyes were somewhat hard. She craved attachment and was very attached to her mother Emma.

At Bonnie's funeral an anonymous person sent a bouquet of lilies, with the request that they be placed in Bonnie's hands and that she be buried with them. Bonnie's mother Emma agreed and this was done. So Bonnie was buried holding the lilies of an unknown stranger, 'by someone on behalf of everyone', who cares and loves her.

BONNIE'S LETTER TO HER 'HONEY' (CLYDE BARROW)

"Just think, Honey, if you and he were to get twenty-five years in the pen! You would be a broken old man, friendless and tired of living when you did get out. Everyone would have forgotten you but me- and I never will- but I should more than likely be dead by then. And think, dear, all your best years spent in solitary confinement away from the outside world. Wouldn't that be terrible? Dear I know you are going to be good and sweet when you get out. Aren't you, Honey? They only think you are mean. I know you are not, and I'm going to be the very one to show you that this outside world is a swell place, and we are young and should be happy like other boys and girls instead of being like we are. Sugar, please don't consider this advice as from one who is not capable of lending it, for you know I'm very interested and I've already had my day, and we're both going to be good now- both of us."

Note: This letter indicates that Bonnie feels comfortable with pursuing Clyde because he has sinned and she therefore does not feel that she will be an embarrassment to him. She also assures him that she has 'already had her day', so that he won't feel he'll be a problem to her chances or future.

Bonnie wanted Clyde to join her and be good, and he had every chance to do that as he was released from jail 'free' in February 1932. But Clyde chose to be bad, and Bonnie made her free choice to nevertheless join him as his companion and assist him with his badness.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

The Trail's End (Bonnie's Story Of Bonnie And Clyde)

BONNIE'S POEM

01:

You've read the story of "Jesse James"
Of how he lived and died
If you're still in need
Of some thing to read
Here's the story of "Bonnie & Clyde"

02:

Now Bonnie & Clyde are the "Barrow Gang"
I'm sure you all have read
How they rob and steal
And how those who "squeal"
Are usually found dying or dead

03:

There's lots of untruth to their "write ups"
They're not so merciless as that
Their nature is raw
They hate all the "laws"
The "stool pidgeons" "spotters" & "rats"

04:

They class them as cold blooded Killers
They say they are "heartless" & "mean"
But I say this with pride
That I once knew Clyde
When he was honest, upright & clean

05:

But the law fooled around
Kept taking him down
And "locking him up" in a "cell"
Till he said to me I'll never be free
So I'll meet a few of 'em in "Hell"

06:

This road was so dimly lighted
There was no highway signs to guide
But they made up their minds
If the roads were all "blind"
They wouldn't give up till they died

07:

The road gets dimmer & dimmer
Some times you can hardly see
Still it's fight man to man
And do all you can
For they know they can never be free

08:

If they try to act like a citizen
And rent them a nice little flat
About the third nite
They're invited to fight
By a "sub gun's" "rat-tat-tat"

09:

If a policeman is killed in Dallas
And they have no clues for a guide
If they can't find the "fiend"
They just wipe the slate clean
And "hang it on" Bonnie & Clyde

10:

Two crimes been done in America
Not accredited to the "Barrow mob"
For they had no hand
In the kidnap demand
Or the Kansas City Depot "job"

11:

A newsboy once said to his Buddy
I wish old Clyde would get "jumped"
In this awful hard times
We might make a few dimes
If 5 or 6 laws would get "bumped"

12:

The police haven't got the report yet
Clyde sent a wireless today
Saying we have a peace flag of white
We stretch out at night
We have joined the "N.R.A."

13:

They don't think they're too tough or too desperate
They know that the law always wins
They've been shot often before
But they do not ignore
That "death are the wages of Sin"

14:

From heart break some people have suffered
From weariness some people have died
But take it all in all
Our troubles are small
Till we get like Bonnie & Clyde

15:

Some day they'll "go down" together
And they'll bury them both Side by Side
To few it means grief
To the law it's relief
But it's death to Bonnie & Clyde

END

CLYDE'S REPLY

C01:

Bonnie's just written a poem
The Story of Bonnie & Clyde
So I will try my hand at Poetry
With her riding by my side

C02:

As we travel down the highway
Never knowing where it will End
Never very much money
And not even a friend

C03:

As we travel through the city
Looking for something to Rob
Bonnie will always help me
When I am casing a Job

C04:

Sometimes we travel for days
Before we can find the right place
And then we would always wonder
If there would be any shooting in the place

C05:

We don't want to hurt anyone
But we have to steal to eat
And if it's a shoot out to live
Then that's the way it will have to be

C06:

We have never shot at anyone
That wasn't after us
And to kill someone that is after you
You are lucky if you don't get it first

C07:

We have kidnapped some people
And tied them to a tree
But not so tight that after we were gone
They could not get themselves free

C08:

We are going home tomorrow
To look in on the folks
We will meet them out near Grapevine
If the Laws don't get there first

C09:

Now days that's all we live for
Just one more visit home
For we know that someday they'll get us
And then it will be solong

C10:

We will drive by the Station tomorrow
Throw a bottle out under the shed
To meet us out near Irving
If they don't start scattering some lead

C11:

We pray every town that we pass through
To forgive sinners like Bonnie & Clyde
And please God just let us make it
Through this town to the other side

C12:

Some day we will go home forever
And they will Bury us side by side
The grief that we brought to our families
Will pass as the years go by

C13:

Now that's not as good as Bonnie's
So I guess I will call it a flop
But please God just one more visit
Before we are put on the spot

END

Historical Note:

The "some day" Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow "went down" together was at 9: 15am on 23 May 1934, ambushed and "put on the spot" by six "Laws", while riding in their "little gray machine" on a back country road coming from Mount Lebanon and just before they reached Sailes, in Bienville Parish Louisiana.

While they are not buried Side by Side, they are forever together, riding "Side by Side", in their legend as Bonnie & Clyde.

01:

A book about Jesse James was among the things found in the 'death car'. They were reading it at the time Bonnie wrote this poem and it provided the impetus for Bonnie to write this poem. Then in turn this poem provided the impetus for Clyde to write his reply to this poem.

02:

The name "Barrow Gang" was given to them by the police and newspapers after the Joplin incident, when they were forced to abandon almost everything in their escape, and where the Laws concluded that Clyde Barrow and his brother Buck Barrow together and Buck's wife Blanche Barrow were all 'running' together, hence the 'Barrow Gang', along with 'the Parker woman' and a fifth unidentified person (they didn't know it was W.D. Jones until he was arrested after leaving the gang) . Bonnie sarcastically notes that the Laws and newspapers wrote the usual generic 'gangster nonsense'.

03:

Bonnie then tells that there's a lot of nonsense in their writeups, fanciful writing, fabrications, falsifications and assures that Bonnie and Clyde are not so merciless as that. She tells that they are just young people riding free and they hate all those who get in their way or try to harm them.

04:

Bonnie acknowledges that they are classed as cold blooded killers and are considered heartless and mean. But Bonnie tells that she knew Clyde back when he was just a normal person, trying to be honest upright and clean.

05:

Bonnie tells that the Law unfairly identified Clyde as a young troublemaker and kept fooling around by taking Clyde down to the police station and locking him up in a cell, both for questioning and also to participate in their regular 'ugly mug' identification lineup, which was embarrassing, till Clyde had had enough of being hassled by the Laws, and losing jobs because of the Laws intrusive interruptions. Feeling he would never be free from harassment, Clyde 'gave up' on being honest, upright and clean and made up his mind to 'go his own way' into the life of crime and any Laws that got in his way could meet him in 'Hell'.

06:

Bonnie tells that how all this would play out was not clear when they started out. There was no precedent to guide them, but regardless they made up their minds that even if everything they tried led nowhere, they nevertheless wouldn't give up till they died.

07:

The situation just kept getting worse and worse, some times they could hardly see how to continue. Nevertheless it was still a fight man to man, no matter what, and they were determined to do everything they possibly could, for they knew they had nothing to lose.

08:

If they tried to act like ordinary people and rent a place to live, it would take the local Laws about three days (which was kind of standard) , to send information relating to something suspect to other authorities and receive requested information back, on which they would then act and go out to search and arrest. So anyone who knew they were 'hot', knew to avoid remaining in the same place for a third day, to avoid trouble.

09:

It became fashionable to 'hang' everything on Bonnie and Clyde. It made good news stories and Laws could use it to cover up their not being able to catch the actual perpetrator. So on a number of occasions during the time Bonnie was actually locked up in the Kaufman jail, she was reported as having been present at crime scenes, which was of course impossible.

10:

The two crimes referred to and which Bonnie uses to 'historically date' her poem, is the Lindbergh baby kidnapping demand and the Kansas City railway depot attack on a group of Laws to free an apprehended gangster they were transporting.

11:

Newsboys were happy for any scandal that helped sell their newspapers and Bonnie and Clyde were providing a lot of scandal so the newsboys were cheering them on and earning a 'pretty penny' off of them. Bonnie's uncanny premonition, it turned out that in the end it was six Laws, but it was Bonnie and Clyde that got both 'jumped' and 'bumped'.

12:

Clyde worked for a time as a Western Union messenger boy, so Bonnie has Clyde sending a wireless to the police telling them that they would like to be left alone to rest and that they have (tongue in cheek) joined the N.R.A. (which was Roosevelt's National Recovery Administration) . In other words, just like others were being given new options by the N.R.A., they too would like new options.

13:

They don't think they are too tough, they bleed and hurt like everyone, get sick, Bonnie got her leg burnt. And they don't think they are too desperate. They're still doing 'ordinary' things like buying groceries, having their laundry done, meeting up with family and accomplices. Always dressing up nicely and being clean. Even having the odd tippie of whiskey and fun taking captured Laws on 'joy rides'. Clyde even had his guitar along and later his saxophone (which was found in the 'death car') . But Bonnie acknowledges that they know that the Law will win in the end. Bonnie confirms that even though they have been shot often and so far got away, that they are well aware that death is a very probable price they will have to pay for their sins.

14:

From heartbreak some people have suffered, but heartbreak alone is not enough on it's own to cause one to die, Bonnie discovered that after Roy abandoned her. But that from weariness people do die. But if people honestly appraise their situation they will realize that all their problems are minor when they compare them with the troubles faced by Bonnie and Clyde.

15:

Some day they know the Law will win and they will go down. Bonnie has made up her mind never to leave Clyde while he is alive. Clyde has no choice as death awaits him in the electric chair if he gets caught. So they have resolved to go down together and when they die they expect that people will bury them side by side. They don't expect anyone except their nearest and dearest to grieve for them. The Law will be relieved that they are finally finished with Bonnie and Clyde. But for Bonnie and Clyde personally it is their death and with it the end of their story, and with it all their memories and dreams and sorrows and happiness and pain and suffering. It is their mortal end. Bonnie's 'World' while on the run was just Clyde, their stolen car and the few possessions they had in it and Bonnie was always Clyde's 'champion'.

CLYDE'S REPLY

It is not necessary to comment Clyde's reply, as unlike Bonnie's masterfully crafted poem with all it's complex meaning, Clyde's reply is just a straight forward poetic telling of their situation from his point of view.

THE TRAIL'S VERY END

The Law was having big problems trying to catch them because they were so heavily armed, with military National Guard weapons and constantly presenting a moving target, never staying in the same place for long and often living in the woods at unknown and everchanging locations. They were constantly changing their appearance and car number plates, as well as cars. From when they were spotted anywhere, by the time the Laws were able to organize a response, they were already gone.

They were finally 'put on the spot' by Ivy, the father of their last constant gang member Henry. Henry wanted to leave Bonnie and Clyde but Clyde threatened him and forced him to stay. So Henry told his father Ivy, who then helped Henry get Bonnie and Clyde 'off his back', by 'ratting' them to the local Sheriff, then acting as a 'stool pidgeon' with his 'broken down truck' and then definitely 'spotting' them to the six Laws hiding in brush by calling out to Bonnie and Clyde "have you seen Henry? " as they drove up and stopped.

As it happened Bonnie and Clyde were already running three days late in getting back to Dallas to see their families, who they had last seen seventeen days before, at which time Bonnie had given her mother Emma this poem. This was because Henry had successfully given them the slip in Shreveport and Clyde was stubbornly insisting on getting Henry back before they went back to Dallas. Bonnie was most probably arguing with Clyde and trying to get him to give up on Henry or at least first go back to Dallas and then look for Henry later. But Clyde would stubbornly not hear of it and Bonnie could do nothing but bicker with Clyde about it.

So on the final fateful day Bonnie and Clyde were coming early in the morning in the hope of picking up Henry and then heading straight for Dallas the same day. They were dressed up well and Bonnie was all done up ready for their family meeting in Dallas later that day.

As they drove down that road from Mount Lebanon towards Sailes, they were probably sitting silently in the car riding side by side, Clyde driving and looking to see Ivy and Bonnie reading her magazine with a sandwich from Rosa's "American Cafe" in her left hand and a pack of Camel cigarettes in her lap. Then Clyde spotted Ivy standing beside his truck in the road, and slowed down and stopped.

Ivy called out to them "have you seen Henry? ". At that moment Clyde would have thought 'oh no, we still can't find him' and Bonnie who had probably got Clyde to agree earlier that morning that if they don't find Henry now then they

were going to Dallas without him would have thought 'oh well, now we can head straight for Dallas anyway, without him'.

Then two rifle shots and Clyde was hit. Clyde would have heard the shots and felt himself get hit, and found himself paralyzed and unable to move. He then would have started slumping and heard Bonnie start screaming and then he would have rapidly passed out and died. He would most probably have thought that Ivy and Henry had lured him into a trap and it was Henry who had shot him.

Bonnie would probably have thought the same as Clyde in the first moments and started screaming in horror at Clyde slumping beside her, realizing all was over, they were not going to get away, were not going to Dallas, she was not now going to see her Mumma, she could no longer stay on the 'run' without Clyde, so her 'present world' was suddenly over, and she was probably somewhat wistful that Clyde had not listened to her and given up on Henry, but his stubbornness had brought them now into this fix.

Then all six Laws opened fire and Bonnie would have realized immediately this was not just Henry and then she would probably have seen some of the Laws now standing in the brush and firing and realized that just like back at the Sowers ambush the previous November, here now it was Ivy who had 'ratted' them to the Laws and they were now ambushed and Clyde was not responding and they were not escaping. So now Bonnie's screaming would have turned from horror to anger at Ivy the 'rat' and rage at the Laws shooting at them. The Laws said that she screamed like a panther (and Bonnie's screaming was to haunt the Laws for the rest of their lives) .

Bonnie would have felt herself get hit multiple times and perhaps instinctively attempted to shield herself with her right hand (which was mangled by bullets)and then suddenly felt herself paralyzed as her spine was broken. At some point bullets hit her in the mouth and one went up through her brain and out the top of her head, at which point she would have probably rapidly lost consciousness and passed out and died.

The Laws estimated that their barrage of fire lasted about fifteen to twenty seconds. The aftermath was filmed by one of the six Laws and is available to view.

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker