Alphonse Gabriel Capone’s parents were poor Italian immigrants from Campania, but he became the richest and most famous criminal in America. Capone was born in New York in 1899. When he was a teenager, he joined a street gang in Manhattan. Then, in 1919, he went to Chicago to work for a gangster called Papa Johnny Torrio. Capone bought a house in 1923, and his wife and son moved to Chicago from New York.

Later, Capone became the boss of Torrio’s old gang – the biggest criminal organization in Chicago. Even today, casinos are illegal in many parts of the USA, but from 1920 to 1933, alcohol was illegal, too. This was great for Capone. He opened illegal casinos and bars all over Chicago, and he made millions of dollars.
Capone killed people, and for a long time nobody could stop him. The poor people of Chicago liked Capone, because he helped them and opened kitchens to give them free food. He also gave money to some Chicago police officers.

Finally, in May 1932, Capone went to prison for seven years – not for killing people but for tax evasion! When he left prison, he went to live in a huge house in Florida until he died in 1947.

Dan Cooper

On November 24th 1971, a man walked into Portland Airport, in Oregon, USA. He was wearing a smart suit and dark glasses, and he gave the name ‘Dan Cooper’ when he bought a one-way plane ticket to Seattle.

The plane took off from Portland. When it was in the air, the man gave a note to an air hostess: ‘I have a bomb’. Later he asked for $200,000 in cash, and four parachutes. When the plane landed in Seattle, all of the other passengers got off, and a man from the airline gave Cooper the money and the parachutes. The plane took off again, and at 8 p.m., on a dark, stormy night, Cooper put on a parachute, took the money, opened the plane door and jumped out!
The big question is – did Cooper survive? He jumped from the plane near the town of Ariel, in Washington State. The police looked for him in the area, but they didn’t find Cooper or anything from the plane. Seven years later, a man found a notice about how to open the plane door. Then in 1980, a young boy found $5,800 on the banks of a river. But nobody ever found Cooper, or the rest of the money.

We don’t know if Cooper is alive, but the FBI and other people are still looking for him. And every year on November 24th, the town of Ariel has a Cooper Day festival!