

Don of Dixie

By Evan Tarver

Welcome to 1960's Austin, Texas - where Southern mafiosos run rampant until a local vice cop partners with a Texas narco to end lawlessness in Dixieland.

Meet Tim Overton, career criminal, part-time pimp, borderline sociopath. Born and raised on the poor side of Austin, he's a local underworld celebrity, known for street fights, break-ins, and hold ups - a man in which to avoid, if you were smart. He and his gang of Austin misfits spend their time running drugs, pimping tricks, and shooting up.

That is, until the first U.S. highways are constructed, connecting the south together as one region for the first time - *Dixieland*. Before, southern criminals were fragmented in small pockets. Now, the worst of them could travel from town-to-town, unimpeded, preying on new victims and staying one step ahead of the law.

Tim Overton senses an opportunity - a chance to control crime in the south and become the first Don of Dixieland. His gang becomes known as the *Dixie Mafia*, using long stretches of southern highway to go from break-ins to bank robberies, from part-time pimping to multi-state prostitution rings, from small-time crooks to America's most wanted.

Opposing them is a local vice cop and a Texas narco, teamed up to take their hometown of Austin back from the criminals. Together and with the help of a local reporter, they piece together evidence necessary to uncover Overton's criminal enterprise and put him and his Dixie Mafia away for good.

The catch? They need to get to 'em before the Dallas Mafia does - Don Joe Civello, fourth generation mob boss, unhappy with the upstart gang from Austin expanding on his turf.

The World: 1960s Austin, Texas

Imagine a time 30 years after the Dust Bowl, in a place still very much recovering. Poor on the east side, rich on the west, gleaming copper top of the state capitol building dividing the two down the middle. Surrounding it, nothing but barren, flat farmland, dusty and hot, the Colorado River snaking through - Welcome to 1960s Austin, Texas.

It's the state capital, although you'd hardly know it. Austin was smaller than a small during this time, a forgotten outpost in the middle of the Texas heat, notable only for the University of Texas (UT) and its beloved Longhorns football team. Just a few hours drive from Dallas, it's a community of farmers, ranchers, and rich Texans with mansions lining the west river, the poor relegated to the "east side" of town, a breeding ground for crime and black market activity.

State politics and a robust criminal underworld are never a good mix, and Austin is a place of shoot-outs, showdowns, briberies, and hold-ups - true lawlessness akin to the wild west. Robberies, break-ins, and sex trafficking are commonplace during this time, Austin's underworld a burgeoning economy of crime, the inmates running the asylum.

But as Bob Dylan pointed out in 1964, the times they are a-changin'. As America overcomes the losses of John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., deals with the horrific news of murdered nurses in Chicago and a tower sniper in Austin, and rage against the Vietnam War, an influential 1960s counterculture emerges.

Before long, local Austinites, politicians, and law enforcement have had enough. Community advocate groups are formed, elected officials change their stance on crime, and the state assigns a narcotics unit from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to help the head of Austin's vice division.

However, while the times are changing, the criminals aren't. Stuck in their ways, they'll do anything to stay in power - cheat, lie, steal, or kill. Live or die, they don't care, as long as the organized crime remains the dominant force in the south.

Cast of Characters

The following are written as excerpts from Austin P.D. crime bulletins (APBs). The below people are either wanted suspects in the Tim Overton case, persons of interest close to Overton, those with material knowledge of said case, and the officers assigned to investigate.

Many of these people are considered armed and dangerous and should not be approached if seen. If you have information pertaining to the Overton case and its suspects, contact Harvey Gann or Ernie Scholl immediately at (512) 795-7312.

Wanted Suspects

James Timothy Overton

- Alias: Tim/Timmy Overton
- Height/Weight: 5'11"/195
- Hair/Eyes: Brn/Brn
- Build: Stocky

James Timothy Overton, known to friends as Tim Overton, grew up poor on the east side of Austin, middle child of four brothers, son to Imma and Ernie "Snooks" Overton, all products of the dust bowl. Had a hard upbringing, the premature death of his mother and abuse by his drunken father turning him to a life of robberies, drug running, and pimping at a young age.

Tim does his best to overcome his past, but hard as he tries, he can't stop falling into the very habits he hates his father for - stealing, drinking, beating prostitutes, treating people like objects. He has a soft side, though, shown through his tender relationship with women like Judy Cathey, a wide-eyed and innocent waitress turned "sister-in-law" with Tim's legal wife.

Tim's known as a hero among poor Austinites. A "hard man", Overton's a boxer and street fighter, taking pride in the number of police required to subdue him. Together with fellow criminals Fat Jerry, Freddie Hedges, Hank Bowen, Brother Darrell Overton, and others, Tim Overton controls criminal activity in Austin, leading his Dixie Mafia on a spree of robberies in the early 1960s, expanding into Dallas and other cities within the south.

Borderline sociopath, Tim commits crimes like it's his job, using bribery, slippery lawyers, and his general wit to stay one step ahead of the law. But with the Dallas Mafia and local and federal agents closing in, can Tim prevail as the Don of Dixieland or will he go out with a bang so loud the entire south will hear?

Jerry Ray James

- Alias: Fat Jerry

- Height/Weight: 5'10"/220
- Hair/Eyes: Brn/Brn
- Build: Stocky/Portly

Jerry Ray James, alias "Fat Jerry", ex-oil salesman and specialized safecracker, got his start selling booze to college kids and robbing anything from jewelry stores to roller rinks. Preference for the finer things in life, Jerry takes gleaming V8 muscle cars for joy rides right off the lot, often keeping them for days, the dealers too scared to stop him.

Gets his name from his build - short, stocky, and wide, former University of Texas (UT) offensive lineman. Fat Jerry has been with Tim Overton from the beginning, robbing the University bookstore and forging checks before they dropped out of UT together, quickly rising to second in command of the Dixie Mafia.

Fat Jerry's a rogue and a ramblin' man, running the Overton operation outside of Texas. Like Overton, Fat Jerry has a few "sister-in-laws" turned prostitutes, operating out of the M&M Courts Motel, owned by Hattie Valdez. Unlike Tim, Jerry is more crude, missing the soft side that Overton sometimes shows.

As the Dixie Mafia rise to power, Fat Jerry becomes more emboldened, paying people for murderous hits in the back alleys of Austin's underworld. The only man who can control him is Overton, but when Tim can barely control himself, Fat Jerry is often left to his own devices - earning him the spot of America's most wanted man in the late 1960s.

Fred "Freddie" Hedges

- Alias: Freddie Hedges
- Height/Weight: 5'11"/185
- Hair/Eyes: Brn/Brn
- Build: Average

Fred "Freddie" Hedges, known as the "powder keg 158-pounder" in high school, a bruising halfback who played football against Tim Overton and Fat Jerry in college, although he didn't know them back then. Hedges, a known criminal, crossed paths later with both Overton and Fat Jerry while doing jobs in West Texas as well as in Huntsville prison, serving time.

Known for his "aw shucks" grin and his cashmere shirts, Freddie, a former boxer, quickly became the trigger man of the Dixie Mafia, considered armed, dangerous, and largely unstable. He runs hot and cold, thinking with his gun first and his head second. No one's safe from his eyre, criminals, cops, and innocents alike. Fat Jerry might be the most menacing of the group, but Freddie Hedges is the most likely to kill you at the drop of a hat.

Luckily, Freddie Hedges is balanced out by fellow gang member Hank Bowen, the 1960 southern criminal versions of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. While Freddie is quick with the trigger, Hank is quick to stop him, using his intelligence and wit to calm Freddie down and see things more reasonably - something Fred Hedges can rarely do, although he tries.

Hank Bowen

- Alias: None
- Height/Weight: 6'1"/175
- Hair/Eyes: Blnd/Blu
- Build: Thin

Hank Bowen, known simply as Hank, a bright young man, good with machinery. Born in Lawton, Oklahoma, grew up working the oil fields in West Texas where he met Freddie Hedges and Fat Jerry, also in the oil business. Known as a good poker player, he carries a car salesman business card just so he can play the part - a verified hustler.

Met Overton while serving time in Huntsville prison. He's the most level-headed of the Dixie Mafia and the sharpest, using his brains to run operations for the gang. Always seeing the comically absurd in most situations, Hank Bowen has a positive disposition about him, a stark contrast to the people he associates with and the crimes he commits.

Hank balances out not only Freddie Hedges but the gang as a whole, a breath of fresh air amidst some of the most dangerous people in 1960s Austin. Still, that doesn't stop Hank from running illegal card games, planning drug store and bank robberies, and coordinating black market deals with the Dallas Mafia.

Darrell Overton

- Alias: None
- Height/Weight: 6'0"/185
- Hair/Eyes: Brn/Brn
- Build: Average

Darrell Overton is Tim's younger brother, idolizing him ever since his childhood. Growing up in the same broken home on the east side of Austin, Darrell, together with his three brothers, would often escape violence in their small apartment by climbing to the roof of their large apartment complex, closing their eyes and covering their ears.

Even today, Darrell follows his brother like a younger child, looking up to Tim and doing whatever he asks, and many things he doesn't. Like Fred Hedges, Darrell is quick with a gun and unafraid to kill someone in the name of his brother's gang. In his free time, he hangs out with unsavory criminals not associated with the Dixie Mafia, often working with them to rob, murder, and steal, sometimes recruiting them for one-off jobs with the Overton gang.

Persons of Interest

Sue Overton

- Alias: Sue Jean
- Height/Weight: 5'3"/105
- Hair/Eyes: Blnd/Blu
- Build: Petite

Born Sue Jean Schuman, small, delicate, and beautiful. Grew up poor in the south, her father leaving her at a young age, her mother killing herself in a gas oven when Sue was eight. Sue was then shipped off to live with her abusive aunt, who forced her into marriage at the age of 14.

Her first husband died in an armed robbery attempt, Sue remarrying and having two daughters. Like many of the men in her life, her second husband was an abusive drunk, committing petty crimes and getting pinched by the fuzz, sentenced to prison for years. This didn't stop him from tormenting Sue from behind bars, forcing her to run drugs and turn tricks for him.

That is, until she met Tim Overton, a strong-willed man, soft, nice, willing to help with her problems. Overton took her from a life of prostitution and drug dealing and gave her and her children something better, something they'd always wanted.

Tim Overton, however, is a conflicted man, one who can't control his temper. Before Sue realizes it, her new husband devolves into an abusive drunk, forcing her back into prostitution and money laundering. She can't leave, though. If she abandons Tim he might kill her, or worse - give her back to her ex-husband.

Judy Cathey

- Alias: None
- Height/Weight: 5'5"/120
- Hair/Eyes: Brn/Brn
- Build: Average, two skunk tattoos

Judy Cathey, skunk tattoo on each buttox, born and raised in Corpus Christi, forced into prostitution at the age of 16 by her abusive father. Left her home for Austin, Texas, trying her best to save for nursing school and get her life on track.

Works as a waitress at a local, east Austin diner, meeting Tim Overton when she waits on him and his gang, her first day on the job. Tim's nice, his lackeys are pigs. Judy is smitten with Overton, a well-dressed southern gentleman who tips with large bills. She can't stop thinking about him, overlooking his dangerous ways.

Judy quickly becomes Overton's number one girl, known throughout Austin as the most sought-after prostitute. She does tricks for the likes of Lyndon Johnson and other men of similar notability (allegedly), becoming such an asset that it forces a power struggle between Tim Overton and Hattie Valdez for control of prostitution in Austin.

Jackie Sanders

- Alias: None
- Height/Weight: 5'4"/110
- Hair/Eyes: Brn/Blu
- Build: Average

Jackie Sanders, upstart young journalist fresh out of journalism school, investigative reporter for the *Austin-American Statesman* and then *The Rag*. Person of interest for knowledge of Tim Overton and the Dixie Mafia through her coverage of the Overton beat.

Uncovers Overton's plans to take over the south at the very moment he rises to power. With the help of fellow reporters, tips from the police, and her own intellect, Sanders exposes Overton and the Dixie Mafia, risking her life to get the first on-the-record accounts of Tim Overton's criminal enterprise from the pimps, prostitutes, and burglars who helped fund it.

Jackie Sanders deals with sexism in the 1960s workplace and a myriad of similar prejudices on her way to stellar reporting, sleuthing, and ultimately helping the police crack the Tim Overton case with the first testimonials and witnesses against the Dixie Mafia. Sanders represents local Austinites during this time and the changing social temperament, doing her civic duty to keep the citizens informed of Tim Overton and inciting community action.

Hattie Valdez

- Alias: None
- Height/Weight: 5'1"/105
- Hair/Eyes: Wht/Blu
- Build: Petite

Hattie Valdez, known as an "old and weathered broad", owns the M&M Courts Motel, a staple of Austin's hospitality industry. The motel is a known place for prostitution, and Valdez is a person of interest for sex trafficking. Associate of Tim Overton, who's believed to run tricks out of the M&M Courts Motel for a fee, paid to Valdez.

Lives on the rich side of town, invests her earnings in diamonds. Associated with Le Lollypop, a popular lounge in Austin, suspected of hosting occasional events for Austin criminals and prominent politicians, flush with prostitutes. Whispers that Lyndon Johnson asks for the M&M Courts' best girl when traveling through town - Judy Cathey.

Police have recorded a verbal altercation between Valdez and Tim Overton over prostitution in Austin and Judy Cathey, both parties armed and dangerous at the time. Continued surveillance on Valdez and the M&M Courts Motel is recommended for her safety, if nothing else.

Law Enforcement

Harvey Gann

- Detective Harvey Gann, Austin P.D.
- Juvenile Detail: 147423
- Operations Center: Austin, TX
- Case Number: 20401389

Harvey Gann, Austin P.D., grew up on the outskirts of Austin, former WWII vet, taken as a prisoner of war by the Germans before escaping. Came back from the war and became a cop, rising to become head of vice, narcotics, and special services. Known as the public face of the local war on drugs, busted local celebrity Roky Erickson and his band for acid.

Assigned to case number 20401389, known as the “Tim Overton” or “Dixie Mafia” criminal enterprise conspiracy case. Married to his work at the expense of his wife, Gann is credited as the first to suspect Tim Overton and his gang of the crime wave in 1960s Austin. Opened the case after a few local robberies, before long was tracking multi-state drug deals and prostitution rings, getting much-needed help from Ernie Scholl, Texas Narcotics.

Gann is focused on Tim Overton to the point of obsession, often resorting to borderline illegal wiretapping, tailing, and undercover reconnaissance as a means to prove Overton’s guilt and put him away for good. However, Tim and his Dixie Mafia always seem to be one step ahead of the law, spending short overnights in jail rather than years behind bars.

Robert Ernst “Ernie” Scholl

- Agent Robert Scholl, Narcotics Unit
- Juvenile Detail: 432132
- Operations Center: San Antonio, Texas
- Case Number: 20401389

Ernie Scholl, Air Force, former gunner serving in the Pacific during WWII. Came home to join the Texas Narcotics Unit of the State Department of Public Safety (DPS). Based in San Antonio, locally famous for busting jazz musician Jimmy Reed for grass.

Assigned to the Overton case after a federal request from Harvey Gann, who’s been trying to catch Tim Overton red-handed for years. While Gann’s leery of Overton and gives him credit for being smart (however maniacal), Scholl’s seen a million Tim Overtons before - he’s not phased,

let alone concerned. However, Scholl is proven wrong as the duo fail to make anything stick. Overton becomes increasingly bold and they can't do anything about it.

That is, until Scholl gets a tip that Overton and the Dixie Mafia robbed an out-of-state bank with their prostitutes, and that they intend to do it again, and again. Scholl, a federal agent, knows that this means a federal conspiracy, one that could put Tim Overton away for good. All they need to do is collect the evidence.

Storylines

There are five major storylines in *Don of Dixie*, driven by the characters themselves. Each of them is intertwined, advancing the story towards the looming federal conspiracy trial, a showdown with the Dallas Mafia, and Tim Overton's eventual death. Cops and robbers, bank robberies, multi-state prostitution rings, investigative and aggressive reporters, and a build towards a bloody turf war highlight these storylines.

The specific storylines in *Don of Dixie* include:

- **Tim Overton and Dixie Mafia Control the South** - The major storyline in *Don of Dixie* is Overton and gang's attempted takeover of the south. Starting as a small-time career criminal in the town of Austin, Overton has an appetite for something more. He bands together with his illicit friends to form the Dixie Mafia, claiming himself the Don of Dixie, hell-bent on running crime in the south, one bank robbery, murder, or extortion at a time.
- **Harvey Gann, Ernie Scholl, and a Federal Conspiracy** - Hot on the Dixie Mafia's tale are Harvey Gann, a local vice cop, and Ernie Scholl, a federal narco. Together, the duo goes undercover, bugs Overton's home, and leans on potential informants, risking their lives to prove that Overton's running a criminal enterprise. This storyline is driven by Tim Overton's sociopathic nature and Harvey Gann's burning desire to catch him.
- **Tim Overton's Takeover of Austin Prostitution** - Key to the Dixie Mafia's criminal ways are the prostitutes that travel with them from state-to-state, funding their illicit activities. The story begins with Tim Overton as a part-time pimp, running tricks at the M&M Courts Motel, owned by Hattie Valdez. Before long, however, Overton decides to push Valdez out and take over prostitution in Austin and later the entire south, a key component of a federal conspiracy to run a criminal enterprise.
- **Jackie Sanders as an Investigative Reporter** - Jackie Sanders, a green reporter just out of school, starts at the local *Austin-American Statesman* right as Tim Overton rises to power. Assigned to the Overton beat, Sanders digs deeper and deeper into Austin's underworld, helping unearth key witnesses and testimonies in the federal conspiracy trial. Jackie Sanders represents the voice of the Austin community, the catalyst that unites local Austinites against the terror of Tim Overton.
- **Showdown with the Dallas Mafia** - Dallas is the center of the southern criminal universe in the 1960s, run by the powerful Dallas Mafia. Overton, a career criminal, has always done as he pleased, but always asked for permission when traveling outside

Austin. That is, until he gets it in his head that maybe he should be running the south, and not the Dallas Mafia. Run-ins between the two factions start a turf war for control of Dixieland, ending in a crescendo of bullets and blood.

Season One: The Episodes

Episode 1: Series Pilot

Newspaper Headline: Dope Raid Nets Elite of City's Underworld

Tim Overton and gang go from small-time crooks to professional bank robbers on their way to controlling crime in Austin. Local vice cop Harvey Gann partners with federal agent Ernie Scholl to bring federal conspiracy charges against the gang.

Plot Points:

- Tim Overton and his gang of poor misfits transition from small-time break-ins and dope deals to armed bank robberies, traveling to little Kyle, Texas, population less than 1,000 and therefore no police, knocking over the local bank. They bumble the job but get away free and emboldened, anointed by the papers as the "Dixie Mafia".
- Hot on their tail is local vice cop Harvey Gann, teaming up with Ernie Scholl to gather evidence for a federal conspiracy. They'll have to prove a chain of overt acts in furthering a criminal enterprise, documenting robberies, meetings, prostitution, tools and weapons used, and then link it all together in court.
- Tim and gang spend their free time shooting up and pimping tricks out of the M&M Courts Motel. Proprietor Hattie Valdez, ringleader of Austin sex trade, charges Tim Overton 10% to operate out of her brothel. Tim wants a bigger piece of the pie.
- Jackie Sanders starts her first job as a beat reporter for the local *Austin-American Statesman*. Following her gut and intuition, she connects a string of recent break-ins, hold-ups, and drug deals to Tim Overton and his unsavory group of friends. No one believes her, thanks to her lack of evidence and their underestimation of Tim Overton.
- Don Joe Civello of the Dallas Mafia grants Tim Overton permission to travel through Texas. Still, his mob thugs keep a close eye on Overton and his upstart gang, concerned they'll become a powerful rival.

Episode 2

Newspaper Headline: Dixie Mafia Runs Rampant; 3 Banks Robbed

Newly minted Dixie Mafia robs three banks and starts the takeover of Texas. Ernie and Harvey shake down Austin's underbelly for information on Overton and gang; Jackie investigates the case from a different angle.

Plot Points:

- The Dixie Mafia travels through West Texas, taking advantage of the new I-35 corridor to rob three banks in quick succession, staying in Holiday Inns along the way. The gang is brazen, but they aren't dumb, "casing" the locations weeks before they strike, walking away with hundreds of thousands in cold hard cash.
- Tim Overton and gang bring their girlfriends, wives, and other prostitutes on their series of robberies, using tricks to fund their illicit activities. Back home at the M&M Courts Motel, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson visits, asking for Judy Cathey, the "girl with the skunk tattoos".
- Fat Jerry meets Joan Taylor, alias Joan Dobbs, killing her abusive husband and moving in with her as his girlfriend. Little does Jerry know (or care), Taylor's husband has ties to the Dallas Mafia.
- Harvey Gann and Ernie Scholl use illegal gambling as a tool for information, leaning on known card dealers who often rub elbows with Tim's crowd, threatening them with the "Suspicious Persons Ordinance", which allows police to arrest people without charges.
- Jackie Sanders digs deeper into the Tim Overton case, finding conflicting information regarding the gang's leader. On one hand, he's sociopathic, a bank robber and murderer; but on the other, he's a local celebrity from his time as a boxer, an imperfect hero looking out for poor and disadvantaged Austinites.

Episode 3

Newspaper Headline: Gun-Toting Overton Holds Police at Bay Twice

The Dixie Mafia goes on a bank robbing spree, venturing outside of Texas for the first time, terrorizing other parts of the South. Jackie Sanders gets more information on the Overton gang while Ernie and Harvey convince the district court to approve surveillance of Tim Overton.

Plot Points:

- Five more banks are hit by the Dixie Mafia, Tim sticking to West Texas while Fat Jerry, Hank Bowen, and others travel to New Mexico and Oklahoma, robbing, gambling, and marauding along the way. Tim meets them in Oklahoma where he's arrested with handguns and burglary tools, getting off on the alibi that he was deer hunting.
- Tim and Jerry's prostitutes come with them out of state, transferring money back over state lines to Overton's transmission shop, a federal crime within the framework of a conspiracy. Tim begins to draw too much attention and Hattie bans him and his girls from the M&M Courts Motel.
- The Dixie Mafia's foray outside of Texas catches the eye of Don Civello and the Dallas Mafia, who have outfits across the South, in places like Oklahoma and Louisiana, displeased that Overton and gang are encroaching on their turf without request.
- Ernie Scholl and Harvey Gann hit roadblocks with their current tactics - they know Overton's behind the recent bank robberies but people are too afraid to talk. The two men ask the district court to allow surveillance of Tim Overton; the court agrees.

- Jackie Sanders finds herself in hot water, a young reporter digging into Austin's seedy underworld. She meets Sue Overton, where she learns of Tim Overton's abusive ways and his side job as a pimp. Sue Overton is hospitalized after one of Tim's beatings.

Episode 4

Newspaper Headline: Crime Persists at Expense of Local Accountability

Ernie and Harvey start their surveillance and go undercover, trying to collect enough evidence to prove a federal conspiracy. Tim and Fat Jerry address their issues with Hattie.

Plot Points:

- Tim Overton moves into an apartment with Hank Bowen on Harmon Avenue, known as "Harmon House". This move is highlighted by parties at the apartment as the Dixie Mafia uses it as a flophouse - people in and out, loud muscle cars coming and going, music piercing through the walls, no desire to rob banks.
- Ernie Scholl and Harvey Gann bug Harmon House, hiding microphones powered by c-cell batteries in the furniture and the wall heater. They set up shop across the street in a vacant apartment, relying on audio and visual surveillance as well as informants close to Overton and gang. On occasion, Ernie Scholl tails the Overton around Austin.
- Two men in masks sneak into Hattie Valdez's apartment on East Riverside Drive, slapping her around and leaving cuts, bumps, and bruises. The two men are Tim and Fat Jerry, coming to send her a message, although Hattie can't prove it.
- Jackie Sanders' recent news articles catch the eye of *The Rag*, an underground southern newspaper popular with the 1960s counterculture. Members of *The Rag* try to court her away from the *Austin-American Statesman*, promising real impact and change.
- President John F. Kennedy is shot while in the back of his motorcade, sending the country into shock. Soon after, alleged killer Lee Harvey Oswald is murdered - the Dallas Mafia suspected. Overton recognizes Jack Ruby from his meeting with Don Civello.

Episode 5

Newspaper Headline: Attorney Blames Sheriff: Courthouse 'Bugged'

Tim Overton finds out his apartment is bugged, launches a civil case against Harvey Gann and Austin P.D. for illegal surveillance. Fat Jerry travels to Puerto Vallarta where he tries to rob 1960s movie star Richard Burton.

Plot Points:

- Tim Overton is shot in the shoulder by a local vigilante, surviving thanks to ongoing surveillance and quick action by Austin P.D., causing Tim to wonder. Searching his apartment, he discovers the bugs and files a civil suit against Harvey Gann and Austin P.D. via lawyer Brooks Holman.

- Harvey Gann defends himself in Tim Overton's civil case, Ernie Scholl still undercover. In a twist of fate, the courthouse and jailhouse are both found to be illegally bugged - Overton wins his case. The judge awards Overton one dollar in damages.
- Fat Jerry takes his girlfriend Joan Taylor to Puerto Vallarta with friends George O. Jackson and film director John Huston. Jerry meets Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, tries to rob Burton but can't figure out the logistics before he returns to Austin.
- Jackie Sanders finds out that many reporters at the *Austin-American Statesman* plant information for their own stories. She protests to her editor, who takes her off the Tim Overton case. Jackie leaves the paper for *The Rag*, where she doubles her efforts to prove Tim Overton's criminal acts, focusing on Sue Overton and the women affected.
- Charles Whitman, the UT tower sniper, strikes, killing 18 and injuring 31, the largest act of terror in U.S. history to date. Whitman is an associate of Tim Overton and Dallas mob boss Don Civello thinks Austin is getting out of control.

Episode 6

Newspaper Headline: Austin Base for Thugs - Gangs Reported Working Varied Crimes in State

The Dixie Mafia rest on its recent successes, causing Harvey and Ernie take action, prodding the gang to strike again, needing more evidence. Community groups are formed thanks to Jackie Sanders and her reporting, the first sign of local opposition to the Dixie Mafia.

Plot Points:

- Tim Overton and the Dixie Mafia hit a lull after the civil case, Fat Jerry still dreaming of Puerto Vallarta. Tim stays in Austin while members strike out on their own, traveling up and down the 1-35 corridor between Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, small-time jobs that aren't part of a federal conspiracy.
- Harvey and Ernie "encourage" the Dixie Mafia to continue by busting Judy Cathey and Sue Overton in Plainview, Texas, both turning tricks at a Holiday Inn. As expected, this stops the flow of cash funding the Dixie Mafia, motivating the gang to start robbing again.
- Tim Overton and gang go into hyperdrive, robbing five banks in Kansas and stealing from upscale Austin residences on the west side of town. Five houses are looted, netting more dough than the bank robberies themselves.
- Dixie Mafia associate Bobby Joe Ward argues with a pimp in Dallas over one of his girls. The pimp beats him good, putting him in a wheelchair for life. Tim Overton is in Dallas at the time, takes personal offense to the attack.
- Jackie Sanders leaves the *Statesman* for *The Rag*, known for breaking stories and telling truth. Two local community groups are formed, the *Travis County Grand Jury Association* and *Greater Austin Association*, the first time local Austinites take a stand against Overton and gang. People are willing to talk with Jackie, off the record.

Episode 7

Newspaper Headline: 'Getting Close to Dixie Mafia', Police Say

Tim Overton and gang are sloppy and brazen, leaving behind the first pieces of hard evidence in the federal conspiracy trial. Jackie convinces local Austinites to speak on the record. No one in the Dixie Mafia seems to mind.

Plot Points:

- Fat Jerry robs the Red Carpet Club, an illegal casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, leaving behind tools that Scholl and Gann previously marked. Later, members of the Dixie Mafia rob a bank in Oklahoma, leaving behind more tools, the first solid pieces of evidence.
- Ernie Scholl goes undercover as a front desk clerk at a Holiday Inn, watching the Overton gang case banks. Tim pistol whips a pregnant Judy Cathey, breaking both her ankles and causing a miscarriage. They rush to the hospital, Scholl leaves.
- Tim and Fat Jerry show up at the M&M Courts Motel with sawed-off shotguns, no element of surprise, trying to take over the Austin sex trade once and for all. Police surveillance tips off Hattie, who meets them with armed thugs of her own. The situation is diffused before shots are fired.
- Darrell Overton shoots Curtis Eugene Newsom in the face with a shotgun, a Dallas pimp with ties to the Mafia who came to Austin looking for Bobby Joe Ward and his girls.
- Local Austinites, guilty and innocent, unable to take the Overton terror any longer, open up to Jackie, the new investigative reporter for *The Rag*. Little by little, she convinces the people of Austin to speak out on the record, testimony the Harvey and Ernie rely on heavily as part of their federal conspiracy case.

Episode 8

Newspaper Headline: Manhunt Across Texas, Dixie Mafia Don Caught

In Mobeetie, Texas, the Dixie Mafia makes a fatal mistake, launching a 48-hour manhunt that ends with the gang behind bars, awaiting a federal conspiracy trial. If only they cared, getting picked up old hat for them.

Plot Points:

- Overton and his traveling band of robbers move through Wichita, Kansas, on their way to Mobeetie Texas, robbing the town's only bank. Suddenly, shots are fired - a sheriff deputy from adjacent Wheeler County, called by the nightwatchman, the first time the Dixie Mafia is caught in the act. A chase ensues across the Texas Panhandle down famous Route 66. Less than 48 hours later, the Dixie Mafia is caught.
- Harvey Gann and Ernie Scholl fly to Wheeler County where the criminals are held. Fat Jerry is shipped off to Gulfport, Mississippi to stand trial for the Red Carpet Casino

robbery. Darrell Overton is tried for the murder of Eugene Curtis Newsom. Plea bargains wipe the Mobeetie case, but evidence is collected for the conspiracy trial.

- Sleazy Lawyer Webbie Flanagan rushes to the local Holiday Inn to clean up evidence. Ernie Scholl follows him, catching him red-handed with loot and burglary tools.
- Fat Jerry escapes prison, makes the FBI's Top 10 Most Wanted List. The accolade is short-lived, however, and police pick up Fat Jerry and girlfriend Joan Taylor stealing and turning tricks throughout New Mexico.
- Jackie Sanders contacts Harvey Gann with a list of potential informants and people who would accept amnesty in return for testifying against the Dixie Mafia in court. Harvey believes that this testimony, together with the mounting physical evidence, is enough to put Tim Overton and gang away.

Episode 9

Newspaper Headline: James Gang, The Likes We've Never Seen

The Dixie Mafia is tried in court for conspiring to run a criminal enterprise. The Overton Gang attempts to escape; the case is moved to El Paso, Texas.

Plot Points:

- The major players in the Overton gang are tried for running a criminal enterprise, including bank robberies, money laundering, transporting cash illegally over state lines, and operating a multi-state prostitution ring. Fat Jerry is listed as the ringleader thanks to his time on the Top 10 list, the newspapers touting it as the "James Gang", angering Overton, who wants the credit.
- Informants are gathered by Ernie Scholl and Harvey Gann, with help from Jackie Sanders. Many of the people who agree to testify against the Dixie Mafia in federal court are the very prostitutes and criminals associated with the Overton gang.
- Defendants don't have a chance - their only strategy to grind the trial to a halt, objecting to every piece of evidence submitted by the plaintiff. Many, if not all, of the defendants are already serving time for various crimes, making a mockery of the court.
- Overton routinely screws Judy Cathey between the bars of his cell, prostitutes slipping the gang soda water with liquor during the trial. Tim plans a breakout, lackeys mounting at the border of Del Rio. Police find tools in Overton's cell, thwarting the breakout and forcing the conspiracy trial to move from Del Rio to El Paso, Texas.
- Martin Luther King, Jr., dies, Vietnam rages, Robert Kennedy is shot and killed, and eight nurses are found slain in Chicago. The Tim Overton federal conspiracy trial fits right in with the absurdity of the times.

Episode 10

Newspaper Headline: Local Crime Figure Shot Dead

The federal conspiracy trial concludes in El Paso, Texas, putting Overton away for five years, thanks to time served during the trial. While away, the Dixie Mafia is murdered, one at a time. Tim is released from jail and returns to his old ways, unaware of the target on his head.

Plot Points:

- The trial ends in without the defendants calling a single witness. By the end, only the six of the original 20 indicted were charged, with Tim Overton getting five years for leading a criminal enterprise (thanks to time served during the trial).
- Unknown to Overton, his accomplices, all serving various time for the conspiracy trial and other crimes committed, are killed one-by-one, bullets in the head, killers unknown but suspected - the Dallas Mafia. After it's over, five of Overton's closest accomplices and confidants are dead.
- Overton is released on October 8, 1972, promising to go to Alaska and work with his uncle - a lie, of course. Before long, Tim Overton's ego gets the best of him, still angry Fat Jerry got credit for the Dixie Mafia. Overton decides to take over Austin once again, a town that's changed drastically since his incarceration.
- On a fateful night in December, Overton is shot dead, twice in the back and twice in the head. The killer, Dallas Mafia member Dale Hall, takes Overton's boots but leaves \$300 in cash, a message that this wasn't about the money - that the Dixie Mafia was done.
- New Dallas mob boss Joseph Campisi thinks he's finally restored the balance of power in the south. As the first season comes to a close, even we believe it's over. That is, until a man, shrouded in darkness, shoots Dale Hall in the head. The man steps forward into the light - Fat Jerry Ray James, taking Overton's mantle as the Don of Dixie.

Tone & Themes

Don of Dixie is a story with a tone very much influenced by the period and place in which it occurs. Opening in 1962 and ending with the conviction of key characters in 1968, followed by many of their deaths in 1972, the storyline threads a time of intense change in America and the south.

Tim Overton and our merry band of misfits grew up poor in Austin - casualties of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Beaten and abused, many of them are sociopathic and seemingly bipolar, taking advantage of the lawless state capital to cheat and steal their way through life. Getting picked up by the police was a slow Tuesday, and pride was taken in the number of officers it took to subdue them.

In short, they just don't care, thinking it all a game, one big joke they're playing on a life that's dealt them shit cards. Tim Overton robs banks like it's his day job, Fat Jerry Ray James is a master intimidator, Freddie Hedges is unafraid to pull the trigger, and Hank Bowen can swindle like a used-car salesman. The overarching tone is therefore absurdist, said best by the band *Portugal. The Man* in their hit *Feel it Still*, "I'm a rebel just for kicks, man."

Except to Tim Overton, “kicks” means break-ins, kidnappings, and murder. Still, as much as we want to hate Overton and the Dixie Mafia for their cold, ruthless, and sociopathic ways, we can’t help but empathize with them. Each of our criminals comes from a hard upbringing, and no matter what they do, they can’t get out of their own way, repeating their past mistakes.

For this reason, a key theme is empathy and humanism. Tim Overton and gang commit horrible acts, but we see enough of their good sides, understand enough of their upbringings, that we can’t help but root for them in a sense and hate ourselves for doing so.

Of course, this doesn’t matter to those beaten and robbed. As the story advances through the 1960s, Austin and America as a whole undergo intense social, political, and economic change. Community advocate groups are formed, politicians change their stance on crime, and federal and local cops join forces to stop lawlessness in Austin.

The only problem? Tim Overton and his gang are stuck in their ways, comfortable paying politicians, harassing locals, and doing whatever the hell pleased them without concern for others. In this way, it’s not Tim Overton himself who goes through intense change, but rather the city of Austin itself and those trying to catch the Dixie Mafia, another key theme as this change is ultimately what does Overton in for good.