



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS

PART 10 OF 19

BUFILE NUMBER: 62-5033

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Orange Indiana Murders

FILE NO. 42-5033

SECTION NO. 10

SERIALS 281 - 315

4-2-42 11-17-1941

CRIMINAL RECORDS 12/15/41

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

REPORT MADE AT: St. Louis, Mo.	DATE WHEN MADE: 12-30-25	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12-29-25	REPORT MADE BY: E. A. SOLANEA
TITLE: ERNEST BURKHART et al OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS			CHARACTER OF CASE:

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

62-13

Witness, Eugene E. Peel returned to St. Louis. Will leave town and return again January 2, 1926, when subpoena will be served on him. Pending.

DETAILS:

Referring to Agent's report of 12/29/25 in this matter, shortly after this report had been sent out Mr. Lake phoned this office that witness Peel had returned to this city. Agent immediately called on Peel at Lake's office, where Peel stated that he did not remember the details of his investigation of the murder of Henry Roan or Roanhorse. However, that if he had a copy of the report made by him to refresh his memory, he would be able to recall all the details. He further stated that he was leaving town and would return Saturday morning, January 2nd, at which time he would accept service of the subpoena at his office. Inasmuch as up to this writing subpoena has not arrived the matter will be kept in abeyance until January 2nd.

PENDING.

XXX
SERIES

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-281	RECORDED AND INDEXED JAN 4 1926
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: #2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Washington - 2 Okla. City - 2 Office - 1	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JAN 2 1926 P.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	CHECKED OFF: JAN 5 1926 JACKETED:
	LAS-mla. <i>[Signature]</i>	ROUTED TO: FILED: <i>[Signature]</i>	

4619

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: Guthrie, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE: 12/29/25	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12/1 to 12/25	REPORT MADE BY: F. S. [unclear]
TITLE: E. "BILL" HALE ET AL.		CHARACTER OF CASE: MURDER OF HENRY ROAN AND E. BROWN ET AL.	

(O. C. 70-1)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

REPORT OF SPECIAL AGENT JOHN K. WARD.

Further information secured regarding movements and actions of Ernest Burkhardt and Bill Hale on night Smith home was destroyed. Place of murder of Henry Roan definitely fixed on restricted Indian land. Further information secured regarding actions of Roy Bunch shortly before, and after the finding of Roan's body. Continued.

62-5033

DETAILS:

CONCERNING THE MURDER OF W. E. "BILL" SMITH.

HENRY WARD, Fairfax, Oklahoma, stated to this agent that he was at the scene immediately after the explosion of W. E. Smith's home and while he saw ERNEST BURKHARDT, who was dressed in a bath robe or a night robe, the night robe being on the outside of his trousers. Also that he, HENRY WARD, saw W. K. "Bill" HALE late Thursday evening in Fairfax, Oklahoma, which was the day before the explosion, talking to a man, whose name this agent will ascertain and furnish later.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-282	RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 5 1926
WASHINGTON REFERENCE:	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 Washington 3 files. <i>copy to Mr. [unclear] 1-6-26 Itv.</i>	CHECKED OFF: JAN 11 1926
	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	JACKETED:
	ROUTED TO: <i>[unclear]</i>	FILE: <i>[unclear]</i>

MELVIN A. MARION (nick name "BOOGIE") captain of the Fire Department of Fairfax, Oklahoma, stated to this Agent that he saw ERNEST BURKHART at the scene of the explosion and fire immediately thereafter. That he had a conversation with BURKHART and said to him that the explosion was a terrible thing and ERNEST BURKHART replied that it was some fire. MARION then said that the one who did this sort should be thrown in the fire and burned. BURKHART made no reply and wobbled around and left immediately. MARION also stated that ERNEST BURKHART was dressed in a night robe or bath robe, that is the bath robe was on the outside of his trousers. MARION further stated that he found parts of burnt fuse on the south side of the SMITH home, that is the kind of fuse used for the purpose of exploding dynamite and glycerine. MARION is familiar with the use of explosives.

SAM HAZEN, a carpenter of Fairfax, Oklahoma, stated to this Agent that he found on the south side of the W. W. SMITH house, which had been blown up, burnt pieces of fuse. HAZEN is also familiar with the use of explosives.

CONSIDERING THE MURDER OF HENRY HOAN.

M. M. RICHESON, Indian Agent, located at Fairfax, Oklahoma, accompanied this Agent and S. H. PIKE to the scene where HENRY HOAN's body was found. The place where the body was found was marked by this Agent, MR. RICHESON and S. H. PIKE and it was determined that the body was found on Indian land, allotment No. 188 Section Thirty four (34) Township Twenty five (25) North and Range Five (5) East and allotted to Tom-Pah-Pe (Rose Little Star). The southeast corner of this allotment was located and shown to this Agent by M. M. RICHESON, who determined that HENRY HOAN was killed on restricted Indian land. Maps, plats etc were secured by this Agent and turned over to the Bureau office.

GEORGE PRATT, an Indian, was interviewed at the Fairfax Hospital by this Agent. PRATT stated that on Tuesday he and a man by the name of ACE BAKER were hunting together; that they separated and that he saw a Buick car on the side of a little creek, but did not go to the car. That when he, PRATT, met ACE BAKER again after the hunt, that he commented about the car to ACE BAKER. That BAKER told him that a man by the name of ALBO said he saw the car on a Saturday or Sunday before this Tuesday; that when he, PRATT, got to Fairfax he immediately went to ACE BAKER and told him that there was a Buick car out there. BAKER went there with some fellows and found HENRY HOAN's body in the car.

BOB PARKER was interviewed and stated that the Indian boy, PRATT, came to him and advised him that there was a car out there on the side of the creek about five or six miles from Fairfax. That he, PARKER, and JIM WOODS visited the scene where the car was located and found the body of HENRY HOAN in the car. That HENRY HOAN was behind the steering wheel with his foot on the pedal and his hands on the steering wheel and his head laying on the right hand side of the car. That the curtain on the left side of the car was down and that the car was on ignition and from the blood and glass scattered around, it was evident that HENRY HOAN was killed a few feet from where the car had stopped.

The following sworn statement was given by ACE BAKER to this Agent

1021

in the presence of L. M. PIKE:

Fairfax, Okla.

December 18th, 1925.

My name is Arch Burger, I am 29 years old, married, and have resided in Fairfax, Oklahoma, for 17 years. I am the proprietor of the B&M Billiard parlor, located in Fairfax, Oklahoma.

I have known Mr. Roy Bunch intimately for 12 years, and he frequented my place of business located in Swanson Bldg., for several months prior to the death of Henry Roan, and at various times stated to me that he loved Mary Roan, the wife of Henry Roan, and would marry her if he could get her.

On or about _____ or about ten days prior to the finding of Henry Roan's body, while on my way home from my place of business at about 12:30 a. m., I met Roy Bunch in front of the Ford Garage in Fairfax, Oklahoma, and he stopped me and we entered into a conversation. Mr. Bunch asked me if I had ever heard Henry Roan make any threats against his (Bunch's) life, and I stated to him that I had not. Mr. Bunch then asked me that in case I have to kill Mr. Roan, would I swear that I had heard Mr. Roan make threats against his (Bunch's) life, and I told him that I would not. Mr. Bunch then stated that Mr. William Hale had told him that he would swear to having heard Roan make threats against his (Bunch's) life, and that he, (Bunch) wanted to get someone else who would swear the same. Mr. Bunch cautioned me to say nothing about having asked me to swear to such a statement.

The morning of the day on which Henry Roan's body was found, Mr. Bunch entered my place of business, apparently in a nervous condition, and handed me a 380 automatic revolver and asked me to keep it for him, saying at the time that he had heard that Henry Roan's body had been found, and that he did not want to be caught with a gun on him. He also stated at that time that there were not many guns in the country like the one which he had just handed me. Previous to that time, I had seen in Mr. Bunch's possession, a pearl handled, nickel-plated revolver, and he told me, Mary Roan had bought it for Henry Roan, but Mary had taken the gun away from Henry and gave it to him.

1622

the best of my knowledge, Mr. Bunch called
and received the 380 automatic on the day fol-
lowing the discovery of Henry Roan's body or the
next day.

(Signed) Arch Barger.

Witnesses: E. M. Pike

John K. Wren, Special Sgt. Dept. of Justice.

State of Oklahoma)

City of Fairfax,)

I, H. E. Wilson, a Justice of the Peace
in and for the said city of Fairfax, and the state
aforesaid, do hereby certify that on the 23rd day
of December A. D. 1925, personally appeared before
me Arch Barger, to me personally known to be the
same person who executed the foregoing statement
and upon being duly sworn states that the foregoing
statement is true to the best of his knowledge and
belief.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand and seal the day and year written above.

(Signed) H. E. Wilson, Justice
of the Peace. "

INVESTIGATION CONTINUED.

1423

HW:JL

January 5, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LUBBERG

I am transmitting herewith, for your information, a copy of the report of Agent Smith, dated Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, December 29, 1925, in re V. E. "Bill" Hale, et al, Murder of George Indiana, Anna Brown et al.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Inc. 38394

62-5033
RECEIVED
JAN 7 1925
SECRET

1624

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Guthrie, Okla.
Jan. 9, 1926.

Director

As planned the State authorities placed Bill Hale and Ernest Burkhardt under arrest upon information filed by State Attorney General at Pawhuska and they were ordered confined here reaching here midnight Monday, the day Federal Grand Jury convened to hear Indian cases. Have obtained confession from Ernest Burkhardt, Poples Hale and John Ramsey of the murder of Henry Roan. Ramsey also confessed both furnish positive information as to blowing up Bill Smiths home. Nothing further yet developed on Anna Brown case. Expect to hear Hale tonight. Federal Grand Jury certain to indict in Roan case and get all factions developed in Smith case to hand to State. Report will follow as soon as work will warrant.

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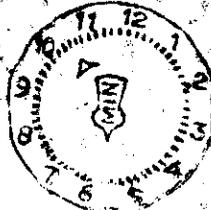
Rec'd. 10

Decoded J

To Director 10:30

JAN 12 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED
 62-5033-284
 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 JAN 9 1926
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 Div. Two



JAN 10 1926

1625

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. If only one character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. If only one character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The filing time as shown in the date line on full rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at Commercial Nat'l Bank Bldg., 14th & G Sts., N. W. Washington. D. C. ALWAYS OPEN

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2179

J E HOOVER

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

W K HALE AND JOHN RAMSEY INDICATED BY FEDERAL GRANDJURY FOR MURDER

HENRY ROAN AND RECESSED UNTIL MONDAY FOR CONSIDERATION OTHER CASES

TWO WHITE.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Rec'd 5:40 PM
O.C.D.

2

62-5713-285
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 11 1934
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. T

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JCH: []

January 9, 1926.

Mr. A. B. White,
P.O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. White:

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

We are receiving numerous requests here at Washington for information concerning the Osage Indian murders. A number of the special writers attached to the newspapers have been seeking information upon which to base a series of articles. I have advised the Attorney General's office that I thought it was inadvisable at this particular moment to give out any information concerning this situation in Oklahoma in view of the fact that the cases were pending in court and we might be adversely criticized.

I have stated, however, that upon the conclusion of the cases I could see no objection to the information being furnished to the representatives of the press who desired it. Anticipating, therefore, that this latter recommendation will be followed out, I wish that you would take the necessary steps towards having prepared for me a full and detailed summary of these cases from the beginning up to the present time, emphasizing particularly such portions of it as are of human interest. There is, of course, as you can appreciate, a difference between legal aspects and human interest aspects and what the representatives of the press would have an interest in would be the human interest aspect, so I would like to have you emphasize this angle in having the memorandum prepared.

Kindly expedite this matter so that I may have it at an early date.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Very truly yours,

62-5033-286

Director.

[Handwritten signature]

1627

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

REPORT MADE AT: St. Louis, Mo.	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-11-26	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 1-2-26	REPORT MADE BY: E. A. SOLANKA
TITLE: EUGENE BURKHART et al OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS			CHARACTER OF CASE:

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

62-13

Witness Eugene Peel located and served with subpoena. R.U.C.

DETAILS:

Reference is made to Agent's report of 12/30/25, in this matter. As up to December 31st the subpoena for witness Peel had not arrived, a telegram was dispatched to the Oklahoma City office, advising them of this fact, and the subpoena was then received on January 2nd, being immediately served on Peel by Deputy Marshal Thomas Elton and this Agent. On the same day a letter was written to Special Assistant Attorney General Edwin Brown at Guthrie, Oklahoma, advising him of the action taken.

REFERRED BACK TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN. NO FURTHER ACTION HERE.

XXXX

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-287	RECORDED AND INDEXED:
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: #2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Wash. - 2 Okla. City - 2 Office - 1 EAS-mla. <i>[Signature]</i>	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JAN 12 1926 AM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	CHECKED OFF: JAN 1 5 1926 JACKETED:
		ROUTED TO:	FILE 11628

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Oklahoma City, Okla
Jan. 15, 1926.

Director

After considerable grilling have obtained statement from Dancy Selph concerning murder of Anna Brown which believe-true. Statement implicates himself charging Blackie Gourd with actual murder and W.K. Hale with inducing and paying Gourd to commit murder, also implicates Kelsey Morrison and Bryan Burkhardt. Am having information followed out quickly as possible. Would like use all Agents for while specially assigned this case.

Two White.

Rec'd. 3*45

Decoded J

To Director 3*50

George Anderson

2

OK Jett

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 20 1926

62-5033-288

JAN 15 1926

*act
1/16/26*

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MEMO

62-5733-28 JAN 20 1938

January 18, 1938.

White,
Department of Justice,
Federal Building,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Replying your telegram fifteenth requesting use of all Agents for while
specially assigned Osage case authorization granted.

Two Hoover.

1630

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1926.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GRIMES.

Confirming our conversation, I have been advised by Major Green's force of the Prohibition Unit that Seth Lewis, who is stated to be wanted in Oklahoma in connection with the Osage murders, is at the present time in Miami, using the name of Jackson. He is reported to be drunk most of the time. He is stated to be connected or associated with the Realty Homestead Company at Miami.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

Wired Okla City 1/14/26
W.D.S.

62-5033-289

file
J.M.S.

1631

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Department of Justice,
Bureau of Investigation.

P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

January 13, 1926.

12

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

10-5133

Dear Mr. Hoover: PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

I am just in receipt of your personal and confidential letter of January 9th, which letter had reference to the Osage Indian Murder Cases and requested me to furnish you with a detailed summary report of these cases so as to afford you information to furnish special writers of newspapers for a series of articles.

I am immediately beginning preparations to get out this report to you as soon as possible and care will be taken to cover all of the facts developed in this case. I will especially bring out the human interest aspects that will no doubt be of more interest, as you state, to the press than the legal aspects would.

I will get this report to you just as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

A. B. Z...
Special Agent in Charge.

TBM:3.

42-5033-2
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 15 1926 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1632

DHC

JAN 13 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

OFFICE Okla. City, Okla.

Date 1-15-1926

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

62-5193-29
62-156-1009
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 13 1926
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. Two
Div. Five

ATTENTION Mr. Russell,

Dear Sir:-

The following expenses to be charged to the

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT on account of (nature of

offense) VIOLATION: MURDER OF OSAGE INDIANS

in re: (title of case) W. E. (BILL) SMITH, ET AL

CITY GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA. as follows:

Salary, _____ days at \$ _____ per day - - - - - \$ 1295.00

Per diems in lieu of subsistence 150 days at \$ 4.00 \$ 600.00

Incidentals, including carfares, portorage, taxi, telephone, telegrams, etc. etc. \$ 65.95

Railroad, Pullman and Steamship fares \$ 650.00

TOTAL TO CHARGE for the month of December 1925 \$ 2611.26

INVESTIGATION STARTED, date, February 1925

INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED, date, _____ 1925

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUREAU AGENTS FROM THIS OFFICE ASSIGNED
ON INVESTIGATION Eight (GIVE NAMES) AGENTS Frank S. Smith, Dallas
Office; J. A. Street - El Paso Office; J. R. Burger - Kans. City Office;
J. V. Murphy, Okla. City Office; J. K. Wren - El Paso Office; C. R. Davis -
San Antonio Office; E. H. Parker - San Antonio Off.; F. G. Grimes -Atlanta Off.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

16,33
A. J. W. Special Agent in Charge.

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FIG. 11

62-5023-290X

January 19, 1926.

Mr. T. B. White,
P. O. Box 123,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your statement of inter-
departmental charges, dated January 15, 1926, in connection
with the investigation of the murder of Osage Indians.

It is noted that you have charged these expenses to the
Department of Interior.

The Osage case is not an interdepartmental case,
and the expense should not be entered. An interdepartmental
case arises where this Bureau undertakes an investigation
which properly belongs to another Department of the Govern-
ment and in view of the fact that murders and other crimes
committed on government reservations constitute one of the
major works of the Bureau of Investigation, the present case
clearly is within the regular assignments of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

1634

Department of Justice

2

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Okla. City, Okla.
Jan. 16, 1926.

Director

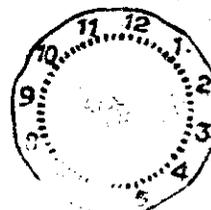
Referring to my telegram Jan. 14th reference statement from Dewey Selph. Now have corroborative evidence this statement correct. Would like to obtain a statement from Blackie Gourd now confined Leavenworth Penitentiary having been committed there for theft interstate shipment of freight, Nov. 28, 1925 from Pawhuska, Okla. In order to get this statement would like to take Gourd from Leavenworth to Guthrie in order to confront him with witnesses. If you can arrange this will forward two agents there to take him. This arrangement very important and would like to bring it about if possible.

One White.

Rec'd. 9:05

Decoded JJ

To Director 9:20



62-5033

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 20 1926

ans. 1/16/26

62-5033-29	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 16 1926	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. One ✓	FILE
Dist. Sec.	

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JAN 20 1926

HM:JL

62-50-33-291

January 16, 1926.

T. B. White
Department of Justice
Federal Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

REPLYING YOUR TELEGRAM SIXTEENTH RELATIVE BLACKIE GOWD THIS
MATTER IS DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS AND SHOULD BE ARRANGED BY BROWN
WITH DEPARTMENT

TWO HOOVER

RECORDED & INDEXED

1636

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	DLUC
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	DLUC
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number or words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number or words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The flag time as shown in the date line on full rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at Commercial Nat'l Bank Bldg., 14th & G Sts., N. W. Washington. D. C. ALWAYS OPEN

1217 58 COLONY TOWNSHIP

26 JAN 13 PM 4

BY TELETYPE OVER AIR LINE

DIRECTOR 2030

DEPT. OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

FROM ASST. DIR. RELEASE DIVISION AGENTS THE PARKER A. T. C. DAVIS

FOR A MESSAGE OF A ...

AUTHORITY ...

INFO WHICH...

62-5033-292

Rec'd 5:15 PM
OED

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 16 1926 P.M.	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. One	FILE

White
13/26
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Washington, D. C.
January 13, 1926.

JRH:HMG

CODE

2-5033-292

T. B. White,
Federal Building,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

62-5033

Reference your telegram you may release such agents as you can from the Osage
Indian cases and direct them return to their headquarters stop Endeavor as
soon as possible to release the agents whom you retain on case for services are
badly needed stop However I would not want any action taken which will in
any way effect detrimentally the Osage murder cases from prosecution point of
view

ONE HOOVER.

Handwritten marks:
A large checkmark with the word "Amended" written vertically above it.
A large number "5" with a checkmark through it.
The number "1638" written in the bottom right corner.

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WVG:JWM

January 14, 1926

O O D R

T.B. WHITE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUILDING
OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA

INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED SETH LEWIS NOW AT MIAMI FLORIDA UNDER
ALIAS JACKSON CONNECTED WITH REALTY HOMESTRAD COMPANY STOP IF
WANTED IN CONNECTION OSAGE CASE WIRE JACKSONVILLE OFFICE DIRECTOR
OR MARSHAL DEPENDENT ON CIRCUMSTANCES

TWO HOOVER

62-5033

62-5033-293

JAN 15 1926
FILE

1639

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Department of Justice.

Bureau of Investigation.

P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Jan. 14, 1926.

JAN 21 1926
62-5033-294
DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 19 1926
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ATTENTION DIVISION 7275

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION DIVISION 7275

Dear Sir:-

Re: Wm. K. Hale Et Al
Murder of Osage Indians.

In reference to your telegram of January 14th, concerning one Seth Lewis, alias Jackson, now at Miami, Florida, and his probable connection in Osage Indian murder cases, will say that on January 3rd, I received information from Special Agent Henry H. Stroud at Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he had been on assignment in connection with bond frauds, that he understood that Seth Lewis had left for Miami, January 1st; that he had further information from James Graham, who was recently convicted with Seth Lewis and others at Pawhuska for violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act, that Seth Lewis while in jail at Pawhuska, after conviction and before making bond, had expressed considerable concern as to what the Federal Grand Jury might do in connection with its investigation of these murder cases, and stated that if he were indicted, the Government would never see him again - that he would make a getaway.

Graham reports to Mr. Stroud that he overheard a bit of conversation between Seth Lewis and his Attorney, John Tillman, with reference to these murders but could not give any definite statement they had made. Lewis, as you know, was former sheriff of Osage County and John Tillman, his lawyer, located at Pawhuska, has a questionable reputation and it is believed that both of them know something or are probably implicated in some one of the twenty five murders committed in that county. We have not, however, up to this time been able to connect Lewis with any of these murders. The matter of his connection, however, will be kept in mind and if facts are obtained implicating him, I will immediately notify the Jacksonville office.

I am handing that office a copy of this letter with a request that they keep Lewis under as close observance as possible pending farther developments in these murder cases.

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2:-Director.

From the manner in which developments are taking place since the indictment by the Federal Grand Jury of W. K. Hale and John Ramsey for the murder of Henry Roan, I have no doubt but that we will be able to solve ~~a great~~ many of these murders.

Yours very truly,

E. B. White
Special Agent in Charge.

TBW.W.

c. c. Jacksonville Office.

1641

P. O. Box 126,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Jan. 14, 1928.

Mr. H. P. Wright,
P. O. Box 32,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Sir:-

Re: W. K. Hale et al
Murder George Indians.

In reference to the above matter, I am herewith enclosing a copy of a letter which I have just mailed to the Director.

The Director wired me on January 14th to the effect that Seth Lewis is now located in Miami, Florida, under the alias of Jackson and is connected with a Homestead promotion concern there. I have no photograph of Lewis at the present time, but his description is between 50 or 55 years of age; smooth shaven; grey eyes; light brown hair; weighs about 180 pounds; has rather a florid complexion; dresses well and has a good appearance.

I will endeavor to obtain a photograph of Lewis and forward to you for your use in keeping him under observation.

From the reports coming to me, I have no doubt but that he is connected in some way with the murders mentioned in my letter to the Director.

Yours very truly,

R. E. White,
Special Agent in Charge.

c. c. Director as per
WAC letter No. 572.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-295
JAN 21 1928
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 18 1928
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
1142

P. O. Box 123,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
Jan. 14, 1925.

Mr. B. G. Hancock,
P. O. Box 663,
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:-

Re: W. Y. Hale et al
Murder/Osage Indians.

A letter in the above connection from one J. E. Nelson, an inmate of the Nebraska State Penitentiary, has reached me. The letter in question was signed by Nelson and written to and addressed to Anna Cutler, at Pawtucka, Okla. who is alleged to be the wife of Nelson.

In this letter, Nelson states among other things, that he knew all about the Osage murders, for which the law suits now stands charged in Federal Court. Nelson stated that on account of what he knew about these murders, his life was threatened and he accordingly, in fear of his life, left Oklahoma.

I would like for you to kindly have an agent visit the Nebraska State Penitentiary - which I believe is located at Lincoln and interview and obtain a statement from Nelson and get what he knows. His number in that institution, I believe, is 9051.

Yours very truly,

E. B. White
E. B. White,
Special Agent in Charge.

BN:W.

(c. c. Director as
per SAC letter 572)

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-5033-296
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 17 1925
DIV. TWO

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**Department of Justice,
Bureau of Investigation.**

F. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Jan. 14, 1926.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION DIV. NO. 5.

Dear Sir:

In re: ~~ED ROBERTSON~~, Special Informant, ^{87D} Osage Indian Murder cases.

In reference to our conversation when I was in Washington in December and your letter of December 18th in connection with the above Informant, would like to say that this man's services were dispensed with on Jan. 4th, up to and including which time, I had your authority for his employment.

I am today submitting a Voucher made in my name covering his salary and expense for this period.

Yours very truly,

[Handwritten Signature]
T. E. White,
Special Agent in Charge.

EDW.M.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 28 1926

62-5033-297

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 21 1926
FILE
[Handwritten Initials]

-enc-

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Jan. 20, 1926.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Director

After Federal indictment returned against Hale and Ramsey for murder of Henry Roan had some trouble in having State dismiss charges filed Pawhuska against Hale, Burkhardt, Lawson and Bloyed (Lloyed?) which was done our request to get Hale in custody but after an appeal to Governor Attorney General, Oklahoma ordered cases dismissed. Lawyers for Hale have tried every way possible to break into our case by intimidating Burkhardt and Ramsey. In order get Burkhardt away from any possible interference have had him taken to El Paso by Agents Street and Wren going via Ft. Worth to which place Agent Smith is accompanying them in Smith's automobile. Burkhardt signed statement that he wanted this done for his protection and is paying his own expenses. Smith after appearing Beard case at Dallas will return here. Trust this movement meets your approval.

One White.

Rec'd. 9:25

Decoded J

To Director 9:50

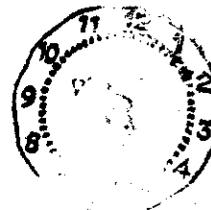
RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-298

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 21 1926 P.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



JAN 21 1926

JAN 25 1926

1645

James Okla
Why El Paso?
1/21/26

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JAN 25 1926

WVG:JUL

62-5033 - 298

R O D E

January 25, 1926.

T.B. WHITE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUILDING
OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA.

REFERRING TELEGRAM TWENTIETH AM UNABLE UNDERSTAND WHY BURNHART WAS
TAKEN EL PASO WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE EXTRAORDINARY SURVEILLANCE TO
PREVENT HIS LEAVING COUNTRY WITH RESULTANT DIFFICULTIES EXTRADITION
STOP MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IF POSSIBLE FOR HIS LOCATION IN SECTION WITH
LESS LIABILITY OF DISAPPEARANCE

TWO HOOVER

1646

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

January 25, 1926

62-5033

Director,
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

date
Replying to your telegram, reference Burkhardt do not think any cause for
alarm in Burkhardt leaving the country we had difficult time in separating
him from his family and his attachments are such in this respect is my
reason for stating he will not leave the country but am arranging agents
to take him further inland El Paso Decided upon account agents accompanying
Burkhardt are familiar with place and surveillance could be kept more easily

TWO WHITE

Rec'd & Decoded
1-24-26 11:00AM

FCG

2

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 26 1926

62-5033-301

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 25 1926
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. Two

1647

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Jan. 16, 1926.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Director

62-5033

Referring to my telegram January 15th reference taking Blackie Gourd Leavenworth to Guthrie further developments change-situation somewhat and no need now having Gourd Guthrie this time. Will advise later.

One White.

Rec'. 3*30

Decoded J

To Director 3*45

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly '207'.



JAN 16 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 22 1926

62-5033-29

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 20 1926 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Div. Two

FILE

Handwritten number 1648

Vertical line of numbers from 2 to 22 on the left margin.

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CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	BLU
DAY LETTER	NITE
NIGHT MESSAGE	N L
NIGHT LETTER	

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	BLU
DAY LETTER	NITE
NIGHT MESSAGE	N L
NIGHT LETTER	

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The filing time as shown in the date line on full rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at Commercial Nat'l Bank Bldg., 14th & G Sts., N. W. Washington, D. C. ALWAYS OPEN

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DIRECTOR BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2214

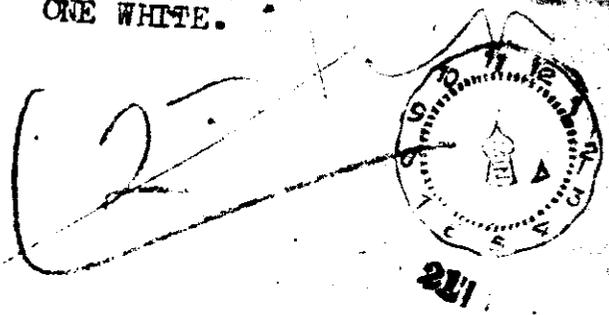
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

SUMMARY REPORT OSAGE MURDERS BEING MAILED YOU SPECIAL DELIVERY

TODAY SHOULD REACH YOU NOON SATURDAY

ONE WHITE.

RECORDED & INDEXED
 JAN 22 1928
 62-5733-311
 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 JAN 21 1928 P.M.
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 Div. Two FILE



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P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

January 22, 1926.

Mr. Louis DeKette,
P. O. Box 91,
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Re: W. K. Hale, et al. - Seago
Indian Murder Cases.

I am passing to you a letter from the
Clara-Ernest Drug Company, at Elderville, Texas,
which letter is addressed to the United States
Attorney of this district and has reference to what
a Dr. H. T. Sizemore of Tyler, Texas knows with ref-
erence to the above case.

I would like for you to have Agent Frank
Smith, while he is at Dallas, run down to Tyler and
interview Dr. Sizemore, ascertaining what he knows,
if anything, with reference to the above case.

Very truly yours,

F. B. White

F. B. White,
Special Agent in Charge.

TB7:B.
Encl.
(c.c. Dir.-S.A.C.
Letter #572.)

FEB 9 1926

62-5033-3

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Department of Justice,

Bureau of Investigation.

P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

January 22, 1926.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION #2.

Dear Sir:

In Re: Osage Indian Murders.

I am just in receipt of your letter of January 19, 1926, initialed and numbered WNG:JWM, 62-156, in which you instruct me to discontinue carrying the expense in the above case as interdepartmental charges, as such investigation constitutes one of the major works of this Bureau.

As I believe I explained to Mr. Grimes, while in Washington, I understood the matter was an investigation for the Bureau, being a murder case committed on Government restricted territory, but I stated at the time that I would continue submission of these charges on our interdepartmental forms so that you would have ready information as to just what this case is going to cost to investigate. However, inasmuch as I take it from your letter that you want me to discontinue this, I will accordingly do so.

Respectfully,

TB7:B..

A. J. Quinn
Special Agent in Charge

FEB 5 - 1926

62-5033-303

RECEIVED	25	A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
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WFO:JH

FEB 5 - 1926

62-5033-303

RECORDED & INDEXED

January 30, 1926.

Mr. T. B. White,
P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of the 22nd instant, further with regard to keeping an account of the costs in the Osage murder cases. While this is not an interdepartmental case, I agree with you that it is advisable that a record be kept of the costs, and you should continue the maintenance of this record. I merely wanted to be sure that the figures were not included in the administrative reports, however, as an interdepartmental charge.

Very truly yours,

Director.

1652

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Jan. 25, 1926.

Director

Judge Cotteral has just ruled Government has jurisdiction in Hale Ramsey murder of Henry Roan but sustained defenses demurrer as to indictment. Gave information as to how it should be drawn to be valid, ordered the marshals to hold defendants for Grand Jury reconvening and return valid indictment. Grand Jury convenes February twelfth and expect by that time to have information together in order to present case of murder of Anna Brown, which will no doubt result in another indictment, this case being returned against Bill Hale.

One White.

Rec'd. 2:15
Decoded J
To Director 2:30



RECEIVED
JAN 25 1926
62-5033-3
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN. 25 1926 P.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. Two

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: Guthrie Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-21-26.	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Jan 4 to 19th	REPORT MADE BY: F. B. Smith.
TITLE: "BILL" MALE; JOHN RAMSEY, ET AL.		CHARACTER OF CASE: MURDER OF OSAGE INDIAN LUNA BROWN, ET AL.	

(O. C. # 70-1).

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Joint report of all Agents on this assignment.

Complaint filed by State Attorney General against M. H. Hale, Ernest Burkhardt, Bert Lawson and M. A. Bloyed, based on confession of Lawson, and Hale and Burkhardt taken into custody by Sheriff of Osage County. M. H. Hale and John Ramsey indicted by Federal Grand Jury, for murder of Henry Roan. Statements from Ernest Burkhardt, John Ramsey, Bert Lawson, Dewey Dolph and Katherine Cole regarding murder of Henry Roan, M. L. Smith and family, and Luna Brown. Fred Roye arrested on Commissioner's warrant charged with perjury before Federal Grand Jury, and released on \$10,000. bond. Murder charges filed by State against Hale, Burkhardt, Lawson and Bloyed dismissed. Hale and Ramsey now in custody of U. S. Marshal. INDICTMENT. CONTINUED.

REFERENCE - Is made to all previous reports in this case, formerly captioned M. H. "Bill" Hale, et al, especially report of this Agent dated October 27, 1925, covering confession of Bert Lawson.

DETAILS: On January 4, 1926, at Pawhuska, Oklahoma, the State Attorney General filed complaint with the District Court of Osage County, charging M. H. Hale, Ernest Burkhardt, Bert Lawson and M. A. Bloyed with the murder of M. L. Smith and family. This complaint was based on a confession made by Bert Lawson to the Government. Hale and Burkhardt were taken into custody by the Sheriff of Osage County, and on the same day removed to Guthrie, Okla., on the order of the County Judge of Osage County.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-305		RECORDED AND INDEXED:
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: 2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Washington 3 ✓ Oklahoma City 5	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		CHECKED OFF:
		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		JAN 26 1926
		ROUTED TO:	FILE	JACKETED:
				1054

A confession was obtained from Ernest Burkhart, in which implicated W. H. Hale, John Ramsey, and ~~and~~ other persons now dead. Burkhart was apprehended, and he made a confession in which he corroborated the confession of Burkhart. Burkhart signed a waiver of immunity and was taken before the Federal Grand Jury, convening at Guthrie, Okla., and on January 11, 1936, the Grand Jury returned indictments Nos. 5859 and 5860 against W. H. Hale and John Ramsey, charging them with the murder of Henry Ross.

On January 12, 1936, the U. S. Attorney filed complaint before the U. S. Commissioner, Fred M. Green, at Guthrie, charging Fred Rowe, of Fairfax, Okla., with perjury before the Grand Jury. Rowe was released on bond of ten thousand dollars, which was furnished by the Ciler of Fairfax, Okla., Hale's partner, and Walter Doolin, of Okla.

Copies of all statements and confessions are attached hereto and are a part of this report.

Subsequent developments proved the confession of Burkhart to have been a frameup, and on January 19, 1936, the State charges against Hale, Burkhart, Lawson and Dloyd were dismissed. Hale was immediately taken into custody by the United States Marshal.

On January 12, 1936, the Federal Grand Jury was recessed until February 12, 1936, at which time it will resume consideration of these cases.

JOHN L. D.

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RE. MURDER OF HENRY ROAN

First statement of Ernest Burkhardt:

Guthrie, Okla.
Jan. 6th, 1926.

Statement made by Ernest Burkhardt to F. S. Smith and F. B. White.

After being warned by Mr. Smith and White that I do not have to make a statement, and any statement I do make can and may be used against me in the trial of the case concerning which such statement is made, and after being so warned, and with no promises having been made me of immunity from prosecution, and of my own free will and accord, I now make the following statement:

Some time several weeks before Henry Roan was found murdered, I went with Bill Hale to Henry Grammer's ranch, and while there Bill Hale called my attention to a man who was there working for Grammer, and told me this man's name was John Ramsey, and that he was a man who would stand pat and keep his mouth shut. That on one occasion in the past Henry Grammer was caught with some stolen cattle and that Grammer got Ramsey to say that he, Ramsey, stole the cattle, which cleared Grammer, and that Ramsey served a sentence in McAlester Penitentiary for the theft of these cattle. Some time around one year and a half before Roan's death Hale took out a policy on Henry Roan's life for twenty-five thousand dollars, and told me the reason he got this policy was on account of the fact of Henry Roan having family trouble and drinking very hard and he had made one attempt to commit suicide, and he did not figure he would live long. After Hale and I left Grammer's ranch, and after he pointed Ramsey out to me, Hale said he believed he would put Ramsey on Henry Roan's trail, that Ramsey could either give him some poison whiskey, or shoot him and lay a gun beside him and everybody would think he committed suicide. A few days later Ramsey came down to Fairfax and I was walking down the street and ran on to Ramsey and Bill Hale talking something about buying a Ford roadster at Ponca City. Ramsey then left, stating he would go to Ponca by way of Pawnee and Perry over Santa Fe and Frisco. After Ramsey left, Hale told me he had given Ramsey the money to buy a Ford Roadster, as Ramsey had no way to get around and kill Roan and get away, that it would be necessary for Ramsey to steer Roan around and keep up with him and get him to a place where he could jump him. In a few days Ramsey returned to Fairfax in a new Ford Roadster, which I understood he bought at Ponca City. I saw Ramsey around town in this car for the next few days. About a week before Henry Roan's body was found, Ramsey walked up to me on the street at Fairfax and inquired for Hale. I told him I did not know where he was. Ramsey then told me to tell Hale the job was all right and not to worry, that it happened out in the Sol Smith pasture. I later saw Hale and told him what Ramsey had said.

1/6/26

1 Ramsey left Fairfax, going to his home at Ripley. In a few days
2 Ramsey came back to Fairfax, and later went to Grammer's place.
3 Shortly thereafter Henry Roan's body was found dead in his car.
4 A few days later Ramsey came back to Fairfax and stayed a short
5 time and went on to Ripley. Some time after Roan's body was
6 found, possibly a month later, Bill Hale told me he had paid Ramsey
7 the balance he owed Ramsey for killing Roan, which made the job
8 cist him the Ford car and the balance, being a total of one thou-
9 sand dollars. Some time after Roan was found dead I asked Ramsey
10 how it happened, and Ramsey said he met Roan on the road running
11 from Fairfax to Burbank and got in Roan's car with him, sitting
12 on the back seat, and they drove off and ~~up~~ the hill, he telling
13 Roan they would take a drink, and when they got to the right place
14 out of sight of the road, he shot Roan, and walked back to the top
15 of the hill where he had met Roan and left his car, and drove on in
16 to Fairfax. He told me he shot Roan with a .45 automatic pistol.

(Signed) ERNEST BURCHARD.

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First statement of John Ramsey:

Guthrie, Okla.
Jan. 6, 1926

Statement made by John Ramsey to F. S. Smith and T. B. White:

After being warned by Mr. Smith and White that I do not have to make a statement, and that any statement I do make can and may be used against me in the trial of the case concerning which such statement is made, and after being so warned, and without fear of consequences, I now make the following free and voluntary statement:

Some time in the early part of 1925, the date I don't recall, Bill Hale came to Henry Grammer's ranch where I was working for Grammer selling whiskey. I was in the bunk house, and Henry Grammer called me. I went out and saw him and Hale standing together. I walked over to them, and the three of us walked out several yards to a road and stopped. Henry Grammer turned to me and said that Hale had a little job he wanted done, and asked me if I would do it. I said "it depends on what the job was". Grammer said he wanted an Indian bumped off. I said "thats different". Hale, Grammer and I then talked the matter over for a few minutes. I don't recall just what was said, but I remarked that I would look it over, and I went back to the bunk house. In a few days Grammer told me that Hale was getting anxious to have that job done. As I remember, the next time I saw Hale was in Fairfax, and we had another talk about the Indian he wanted killed, and I told him I would do the job but that I did not have any way to get around. Hale said he would see me in a day or two or in a few days. I again met Hale at Grammer's ranch and Hale told me he was going to buy me a car, and gave me five hundred dollars. Something was said about where I would buy the car, and I said I would buy it in Ponca City, and something was said about my getting over there and Hale said he would drive me over to Ponca which he did, and I caught the train there and went to Ponca City where I bought a new Ford Roadster from the Ford Garage. Before I received the car I made application and the Ford people secured a license. I drove back to Grammer's ranch. At some stage of the game Hale pointed out to me the Indian that he wanted killed, on the street in Fairfax. I don't remember Hale ever telling me the Indian's name. Several days after Hale pointed this Indian out to me I met this Indian in a restaurant in Fairfax, and he sat down beside me and I smelled whiskey on his breath and we got into conversation about whiskey and I told him I could sell him some. He said he wanted some and I told him to meet me out on the road running through Sol Smith's pasture about 10 o'clock and I would meet him and have the whiskey for him. I left him and went to Grammer's and got some whiskey and drove back on the road leading

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