

...witness is a personal friend of W.
Bill Hale, and is alleged to know
considerable with reference to the Bill
Smith and other Osage Indian murders in
Osage County.

Page 845,
2nd par.

...and question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

This witness is a first
class crook, a murderer
and had a very bad repu-
tation. Thru confiden-
tial informants is has
been learned that he is
yellow and will tell all
he knows about the mur-
ders of Osage Indians
when he is brought be-
fore a Grand Jury.

93-a-

Bill Hale, a partner of W. E. "Bill" Hale, on March 9, 1933, sent a Western Union telegram from Fairfax, Okla., to W. K. Hale at Campbell, Texas, reading, "Deal stands good. I will go in the morning." (Signed) L. L. Oller. (This was the date of the explosion at Bill Smith's house, and this message is suspected to mean that the deal had been made whereby Smith's house would be blown up.)

Henry Morgan, Manager of the Telephone Company, is alleged to have stated to Special Agent Weakley that immediately after W. E. "Bill" Smith died, March 14, 1933, from injuries received in the explosion of his home, L. L. Oller, Bill Hale's partner, called Bill Hale by long distance telephone from Ralston, Okla., talking to Hale at some point in Texas, (presumed to be Ft Worth) and the Fairfax operator listened in on the conversation. Mr. Morgan promised to get the name of this Operator and the gist of the conversation.

Page 145,
3rd par.

Subpoena and question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

Page 145,
last par.

93-C-

Beardmore
Oklahoma

Material.

This witness is alleged to have stated that the day before the home of W. E. "Bill" Smith was blown up, Bill Smith told him, Beardmore, that he, Smith, expected to be murdered at most any time, as he, Smith, had just met Bill Hale on the road near Fairfax and Hale drew his six shooter on him and said to Smith, "You G-- D--- S--- of a B---- if I hear of you talking about these Indian murders, I will send you to hell."

Page B49
1st par.

Subpoena and question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

This witness was a close
friend of Bill Smith.

B3

93-D-

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

2. Agent Wren was advised by confidential informant that this witness knows a good deal about the Osage Indian murders, particularly the W. E. "Bill" Smith and wife murder; also is said to know something about the Henry Roan and Anna Brown murders.

3. Page 848, 4th par.

4. subpoena and question fully before using before Grand Jury.

15722
This witness is a brother-in-law to Bryan Burkhardt and it is not considered advisable to interview him at this time.

73-E-

3. This witness was at one time, up until recently, employed by W. A. Adams to take care of cattle pastured on W. E. "Bill" Hale's land, and it is confidentially reported that this witness Medders has information with reference to the Osage Indian murders, and should be interviewed at the proper time.

3. Page 845, 4th par.

4. Subpoena and question fully before using before Grand Jury.

This man is friendly to the Hale faction.

-93F-

W. K. Hale,
Oklahoma City,
Okla.

It has been confidentially reported to
Special Agent John K. Wren that this
witness knows some facts regarding the
activities of W. K. "Bill" Hale in con-
nection with the Indian murders.

Page 843,
3rd par.

Subpoena and question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

15-261

93.9-

... your close friend of ...
... Bryan Burkhart, and it is said ...
... have confided in him with reference ...
... to the ... murders, and that they have ...
... spoken across with Bolton, even ...
... him that they were implicated ...
... in the ... murders. It is alleged ...
... witness overheard Bill Hale say ...
... for \$100.00 he could get any ... of ...
... dumped off in Osage County.

Page 849
3rd par.

Subpoena and question
... using be-
fore Grand Jury.

It is not considered
advisable to interview
this witness at this
time, but should be
subpoenaed for the
Grand Jury and question-
ed fully, as it is under-
stood that he will talk
if brought before the
Grand Jury, after Hale
and his allies are in
custody.

93. J.

Okla.

This witness has stated that Bill Hale has and will run off several witnesses. Girdner claims to know all about the Smith blow up. He will be interviewed by an Agent of the Bureau at the proper time. It is alleged that Girdner has stated that he knows all about the Smith blowup.

Page 847,
last par.

Summons and question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

This man is an ex-boot-
legger.

93. J.

It is alleged that this witness was at a dance some time after the explosion of Bill Smith's house, where she met and talked with Ernest Burichart, who was drunk, at which time he told her he knew all about the explosion, and that later the next day came to her and told her to forget what he had said. She upon being interviewed by Agent Weakley stated she had worked for Ernest Burichart, and that one time after the explosion she saw him at a dance and he was drunk, and they were talking about the explosion and he said that he was afraid for Mollie, his wife, that if it were not for the kids, he believed the parties who had done the other job would maybe do the same to them; that he did not say anything about his knowing who had done it; that the next day she told him he ought not to get so drunk as he told too much when he got drunk, and tried to make him believe he had told her lots, and he then told her that he did not know what he had told, but for her to forget what he had told.

Page 114, Subpoena and question
2nd par. fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

1548

-95A-

State Penitentiary,
Oklahoma, Okla.

This party made the following statement
October 25, 1935, to Special Agents F. S.
Smith and J. V. Murphy; T. B. White,
Special Agent in Charge, and Luther
Bishop, State Bureau of Criminal Investi-
gation:

Page 820,
last par.

Subpoena for Grand
Jury.

1539

My name is Burt Lawson. I am 46 years of
age. I have been a resident of Osage Co.,
Okla., for 23 or 24 years. I am now serv-
ing a seven-year sentence at McAlester
State Penitentiary for second degree burg-
lary. Before being sent to McAlester I
last lived at Tulsa, Okla. The exact date
I have forgotten, but as near as I can re-
call, I was in the employ of W. E. "Bill"
Smith as a foreman on his farm and ranch,
located near Grayhorse, in Osage County,
Okla., covering a period from some time in
1918 up to some time in 1921. While, in the
employ of Smith, I lived in his ranch house
with my family. Some time around the early
part of 1921 I discovered an intimacy be-
tween my wife and W. E. "Bill" Smith, which
finally developed in breaking up my family
and caused me to leave the employment of
Smith.

Four or five months before I left the em-
ployment of Bill Smith and moved from his
ranch, and while I was in Grayhorse on a
load of feed, I met Bill Hale on the main
road going into Grayhorse, near Bill Smith's
house. Hale was riding a horse. Hale stop-
ped and said to me, "Do you know that
that G. D. is a B--- of a B--- Smith

- 96 a -

3.
"In ruining your home, you ought to take a gun and kill him," I told Hale, "Well, I don't want to get in any more trouble." After that I met Bill Hale pretty often, and every time I would meet him he would always tell me that I ought to kill that S-- of a B---- Smith for monkeying with my wife.

Some time in August, 1922, I believe, I was camped on a little creek near the cotton gin just outside of the city limits of Hominy, and Bill Hale came to my camp and told me he had inquired in Hominy where I was, was how he found me. Bill Hale said to me, "Burt, I've got a proposition to make to you. You was a damn fool for not killing Bill Smith the way he had treated you. I borrowed \$10,000 from Bill Smith and he is crowding me for it, and I haven't got the money at the present time to pay him. I'll give you \$5,000 if you will blow the S-- of a B---- up. I'll fix the nitroglycerine and all you have to do is put it under his house and set it off. That will get rid of him and I won't have to pay him the money." I said, "Bill I don't know how to use that stuff and I'd be afraid of getting blowed up myself." Hale said, "Oh, I can show you how to fix it so there won't be any danger." Hale then picked

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Bill Hale then said, "Now I'll show you how to get it off so you won't get hurt." Hale then held the two sticks about an inch apart and said to just cut a short piece of fuse and split the end open on it and split the end open on the long fuse, attached to the nitro, and light the small piece of fuse with a match and hold it a little ways from the end of the long piece of fuse and let the spark jump from the short piece to the long piece and that would be more of a sure shot than lighting the long piece with a match. Bill Hale talked on a while trying to get me to do it, and I told him I would see about it.

Some time in September, 1922, I was arrested and put in Pawhuska jail charged with murder, and did not see Bill Hale any more until about three days before Bill Smith's house was blown up, when Hale came to the jail to see me. I was in a cell by myself. Bill Hale said to me, "Burt, you will be needing some attorneys pretty soon and I know you haven't got any money to pay them with, and I want that job pulled. Now I can come and get you out of jail and take you over there and you can do the job, and I can get you back in jail and nobody will ever know the difference." I said, "All right Bill, I'll pull it." Hale said,

Continued.

"Well, I'll get everything fixed and be back after you in the next three or four days." Three days after that, about eight o'clock at night, a Deputy Sheriff, I think, named Bloyed, or something like that, came to my cell and unlocked it and said, "Burt, come out here there is a party wants to see you", and told me to get my coat and hat. He then took me down and out of the North front door and pointed out to a car standing in front of the jail and said, "The party that wants to see you is in the car." I went out to the car and found Bill Hale in it. He told me to get in, which I did and he drove off to Fairfax. On the road to Fairfax, Hale told me that he had everything fixed and that I could do a good job and nobody will ever know anything about it, and said, "As soon as you get through with it I'll give you \$5,000 cash." Hale was driving a big Buick car. We went to Fairfax and to Ernest Burkhardt's house. When we got there we went in to the front room and found Ernest Burkhardt there. Burkhardt said something about his wife was not at home, and I did not see any one there but Ernest and Bill Hale. We all sat down, and Hale told Ernest Burkhardt to get us a drink. Ernest went out and came back with some whiskey and we all drank. Hale then said that Bill Smith and his family were at a show,

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and didn't go back until late, and told Ernest to go get the box. Ernest went out and was gone a few minutes and came back with a small box about a foot square and sat it down on the floor by us. This box I could see had a jug in it with the neck sticking out through a hole in the top, and had a big roll of white fuse laying on top of the box with one end of the fuse running thru a cork in the jug. Hale remarked, "Now everything is fixed fine; this fuse will reach from the cellar in Smith's house, back to the alley." Hale asked me if I knew anything about Smith's house. I told him yes, that I had been by the house many times and knew where the entrance to the cellar was. Hale said, "Well we will take you in the car and drive you down near the house in the alley and put you out and you then take the box and go to Smith's house before they come home and put the box in the cellar, and then take the fuse and lay it out as far as it will reach, but be sure not to pull it loose from the jug. Then you sit back in the dark and watch and when Smith comes home and goes to bed, you wait about three quarters of an hour and give him plenty of time to go to sleep, then you touch her off and run like hell and come back here to the house." He then waited quite a while and finally Hale said, "Well, its time to go." Ernest Burkhardt took the box with the fuse and we

1542

RAMSON,
continued.

all went out and got in the car. We drove down to an alleyway that leads in behind where Bill Smith lives, and drove down this alleyway a short piece, and I got out and took the box and fuse, and Hale and Ernest drove on away. I then went in the back way and into Smith's cellar, and placed the box in the far corner of the cellar, then laid the fuse out like Hale had told me, and the end of it reached clear out and into the alley behind Smith's house. I then sat down in the dark and waited. Finally Bill Smith, his wife and his hired girl came walking down the sidewalk from the North and went into Smith's house. I saw the lights turned on. I suppose they all undressed and went to bed, for pretty soon the lights went out. I sat there for quite a while, I had no way to tell what time it was, but I would figure it was about three quarters of an hour, and after I thought they were all asleep, then I lighted a short piece of fuse, that Bill Hale cut off the long piece for me before we left the house and fixed the ends, and touched off the long fuse with it. As soon as the long end began to smoke, I beat it as fast as I could for Ernest Burkhardt's, going down the alley. When I got to Burkhardt's house, Bill Hale was out on Burkhardt's porch waiting for me. I whispered to him and said, "Well I touched her off, the fuse was smoking when I left." I went again the house and Hale remained on the porch.

1546
1751

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

...a drink of whiskey from the bottle sitting on the table and about that time heard the explosion. Hale then came into the room and said, "Well she went off. Let's all take a drink and I'll rush you back to jail in Pawhuska, and I'm going to take a little trip." Hale and I then went out and got in a Buick car and beat it for Pawhuska, and to the North entrance of the jail, and blew his horn, and Deputy Sheriff Void, or Bloyed, came out of the jail door and Hale told me to go on to him, which I did and this Deputy locked me up again in my cell. On the road back to Pawhuska from Fairfax, after the explosion, Hale again mentioned that he was going to take a trip and as soon as he got back, which would be in a few days, that he would pay me for the job. Up to this time Hale has never paid me. I have asked him for it several times, and got Hal Buie to write a letter for me to Hale since I have been in the penitentiary, asking him to send me \$200 and he wouldn't even answer my letter.

Blanch Covington, in a statement made to Special Agents Smith and Murphy, stated as follows: "Some time in September, 1924, Burt Lawson, whom I have known for quite a while and who had placed confidence in me many times, while in a confidential conversation, asked me then about the mortgage on my place, and told me at that time that it would be an easy matter to blow up my

Page 826,
last par.

PERSON,
determined.

house and set it afire at the same time
and I could collect the insurance of
\$3,500, which would pay off the mortgage;
that he knew how to blow it up; that he had
blown up Bill Smith and knew how to use the
nitro, and tried to get me to let him blow
up my house. I told him no that I would
not do that. But at that time told me
that he could blow it up and it never would
be known.

1548

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

MOVING ON

Winconsin 1 St.

Ohio.

Material.

Some time in September, 1924, Burt
Landon, whom I have known for quite a
while and who had placed confidence in
me many times, while in a confidential
conversation, asked me then about the
mortgage on my place, and told me at
that time it would be an easy matter to
blow up my house and set it afire at
the same time and I could collect the
insurance of \$3,500, which would pay
off the mortgage; that he knew how to
blow it up; that he had blown up Bill
Smith and knew how to use the nitro,
and tried to get me to let him blow up
my house. I told him no that I would
not do that. Burt at that time told me
that he could blow it up and it would
never be known.

Page 826,
last par.

Subpoena and question
before going in Grand
Jury.

654

-96B-

OSAGE
Fairfax, Okla.

This witness lived adjoining neighbor to Anna Brown. Anna Brown's house is now owned by Bill Hale. It is understood that this witness has material information regarding the Anna Brown murder, and will be interviewed at the proper time.

3.

Subpoena and question fully before using before Grand Jury.

This witness is not inclined to talk at this time, but will be interviewed by an agent at the proper time. This man's wife, who is an Indian woman, is almost a nervous wreck after the reign of terror in Osage County, and Case had to take her from Fairfax for awhile after the Osage Indian murders.

-17A-

1. MORRISON,
2. McJannet Penitentiary,
3. McAlester, Okla.

This witness made the following statement to Special Agents Smith and Murphy: While at McAlester Penitentiary on Labor Day, 1925, Hal Buie and I met Kelsie Morrison near the entrance to the laundry in the prison yard. Kelsie had been sent up for a term of nine years. Kelsie said to me and Hal Buie, 'I wish I could get out of this damn place, if I could I'd blow me up some more Red Asses if they wasn't all broke.' I said to Kelsie, 'If you don't watch, Kelsie, you are going to get yourself in a crack that you can't get out.' Kelsie answered and said, 'Oh Hell, I'd do it after night like I did that, while nobody can't see me.' I said to Kelsie, 'Well, you got good money for the job.' Kelsie said, 'Yes, and it is liable to cost them a damn sight more before they get thru with it.'"

Page 816, Subpoena and question last par. before being before Grand Jury.

- 43a -

Penitentiary,
Oklahoma, Okla.

This witness made the following statement to Special Agents Smith and Murphy:

Page 829, Subpoena and question
2nd par. before coming before
Grand Jury.

"On last Labor Day Burt Lawson, a fellow convict, and I were walking around the yards at the Penitentiary, and met Kelsie Morrison near the entrance of the laundry. Kelsie Morrison remarked, 'I wish I was out of this damn place, I would kill me some more Red Asses if they had any money and were not broke', or words to that effect. Burt told Kelsie that if he did not look out he was going to get himself into trouble. Kelsie remarked, 'Hell, I'll do it at night like I did the other jobs, when everyone is asleep and no one can see you.' Burt then remarked that he could have put his finger on the fellow who did those jobs as soon as he heard of them being done. Kelsie said, 'I guess you could, you and I talked it over together.' Burt remarked, 'I know who paid you the money, and how much.' Kelsie then said, 'I don't care a damn for you knowing all about it, you wouldn't turn anybody in.' Burt said something about Kelsie getting good money for the job, and Kelsie remarked, 'Yes, and they are liable to be out a damn sight more before it is over with.'"

(This corroborates statement of Burt Lawson).

1530

-43B-

3.
8.
4.
The following statement (Page 818,
Special Agent Smith and Murphy: last par.

"While at McAlester Penitentiary on Labor Day, 1925, Hal Buie and I met Kelsie Morrison near the entrance to the laundry in the prison yard. Kelsie had been sent up for a term of nine years. Kelsie said to me and Hal Buie, 'I wish I could get out of this damn place, if I could I'd blow me up some more Red Asses if they waen't all broke.' I said to Kelsie, 'If you don't watch, Kelsie, you are going to get yourself in a crack that you can't get out.' Kelsie answered and said, 'Oh Hell, I'd do it after night like I did that, while nobody can't see me.' I said to Kelsie, 'Well, you got good money for the job.' Kelsie said, 'Yes, and it is liable to cost them a damn sight more before they get through with it.'"

(This statement is corroborated by Hal Buie.)