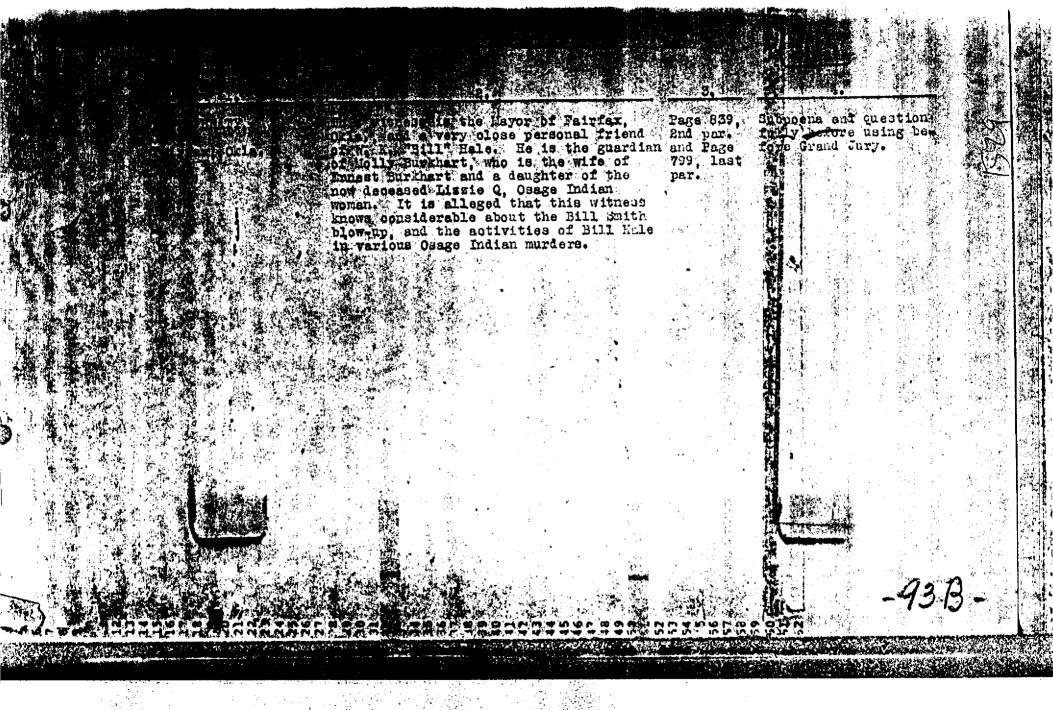
The crees of a personal friend of M. Page 845.

The Bill Hale and is alleged to know and paradousiderable with reference to the Bill Smith and other Deege Indian murders in Osage County. inipoena and question faily sofore using be-Lore Grand Jury. This witness is a first dissi crook, a murderer and had a very bad roputotion. Thru confidential 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 before a Grand Jury.



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

Henry Morgan, Manager of the Telsphone Page 145, Company, is alleged to have stated to last par. Special Agent Weakley that immediately efter W. E. "Bill" Smith died, March 14, 1923, 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. Subpoons and question 3rd par. I fully offers using be-

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Subteens and question fally defore using be-tone Grand Jury. with the day herors the home of w. E.

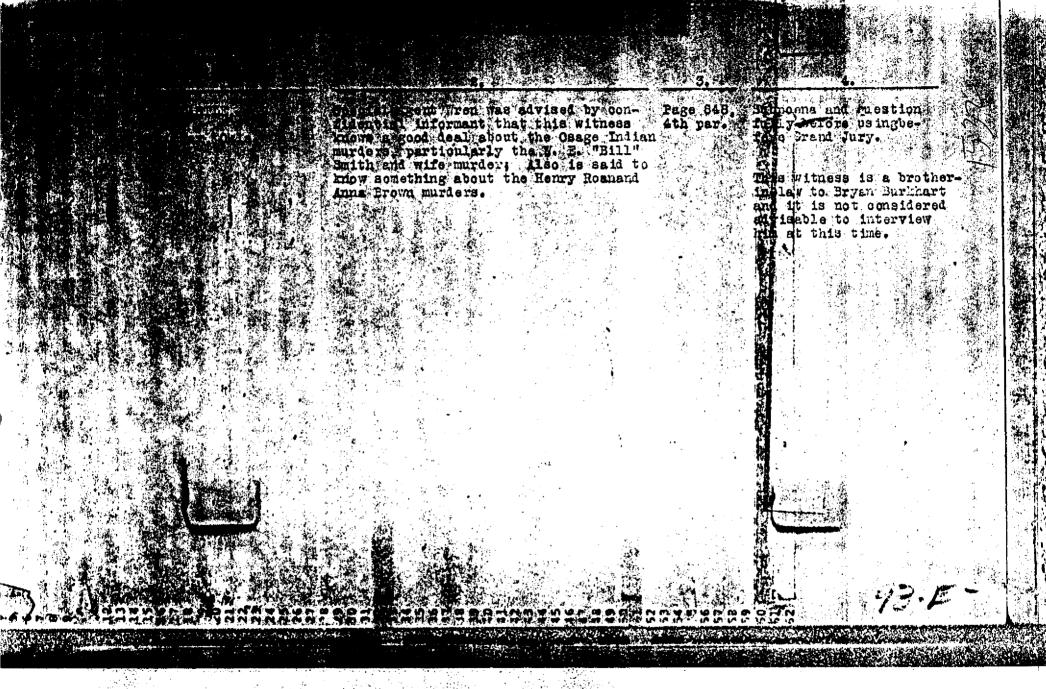
the the day herors the home of w. E.

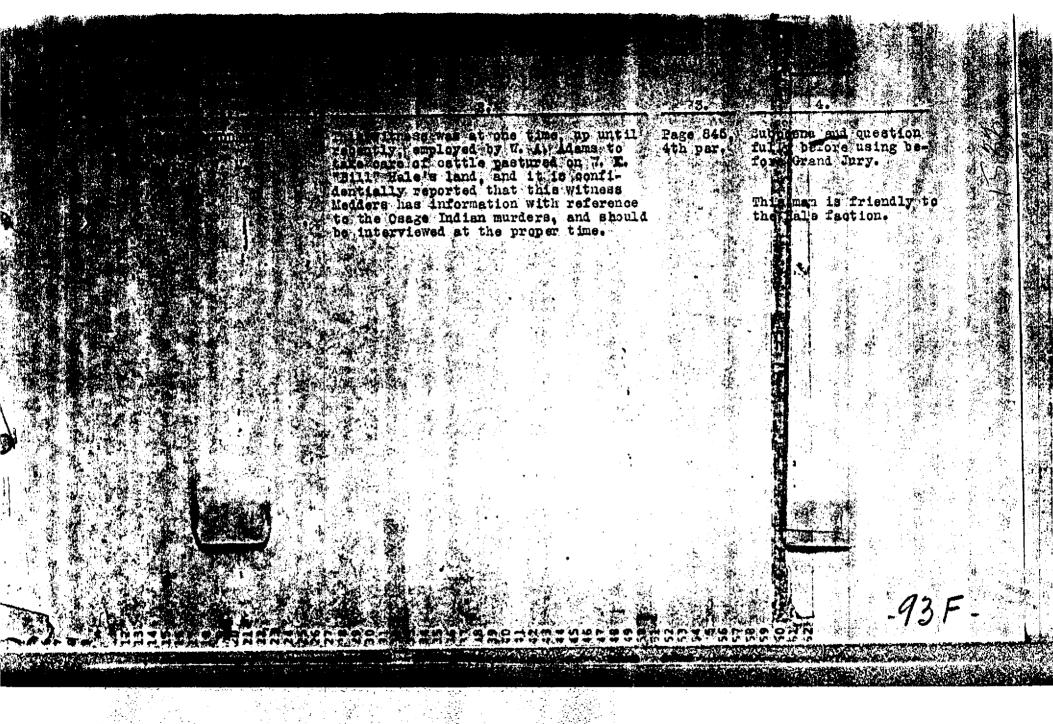
Rill Smith was blown up. Bill Smith

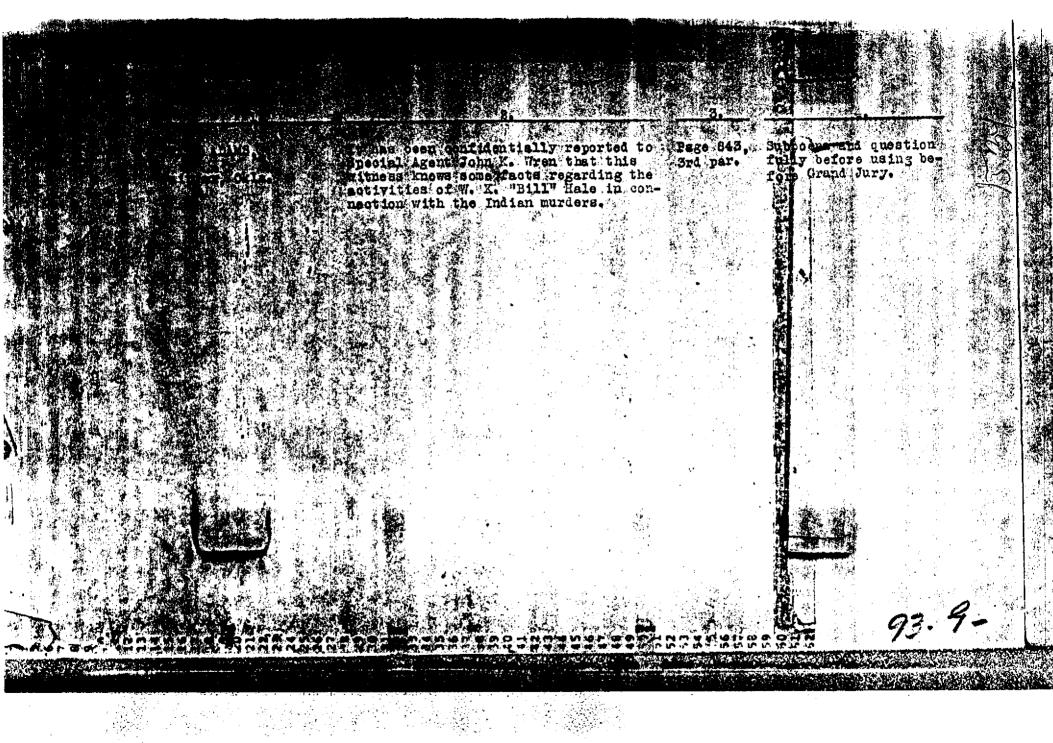
told him Beardmore, that he, Smith,

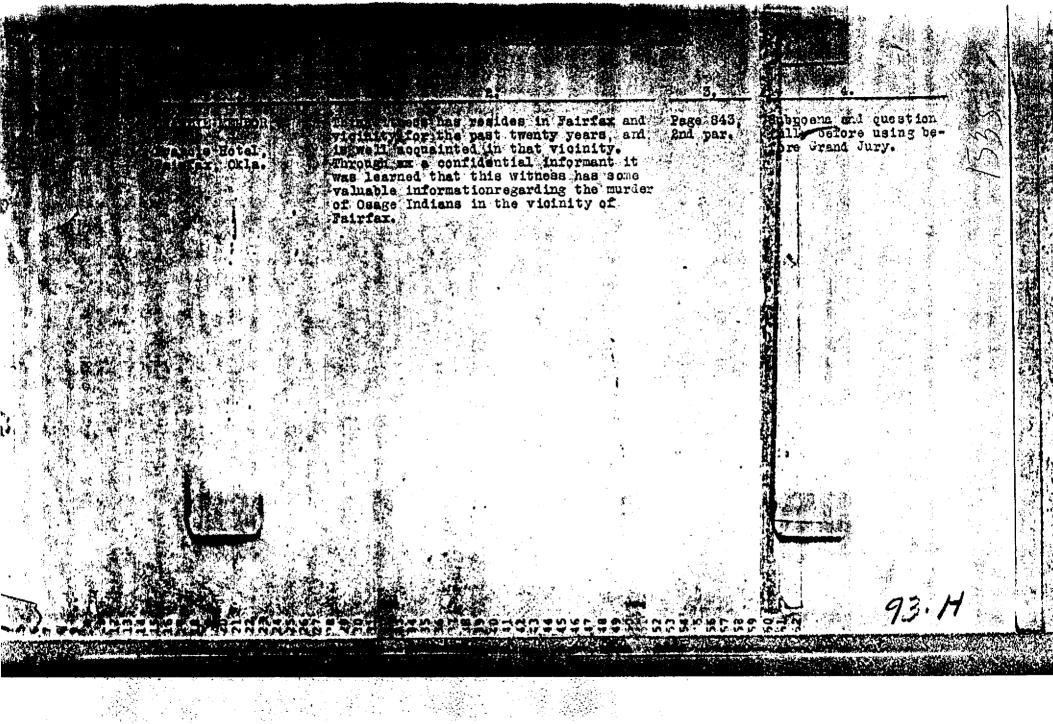
expected to be murdered at most any time,
as he, Smith, had just met Bill Hale on
the road near Fairfax and Hale drew his
six shooter on him and said to Smith,

"You G-- D--- S-- of a B---- if I hear
of you talking about these Indian
murders, I will send you to hell." The witness was a close figure of Bill Smith.









Diver Burkhart wand it is said 3rd par. fully cole using bebe confided in him with reference for Grand Jury.

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The confided in him with reference for Grand Jury.

The confided in him with reference for Grand Jury.

The confidence of the confidence of the considered and sable to interview the stress overheard Bill Hale say this witness at this time, but should be subject to 100.00 he could get any 3- of this, but should be subject to considered and this witness at this time, but should be subject to considered and the witness at this time, but should be subject to considered and the witness at this time, but should be subject to considered and the witness at this time, but should be subject to considered and the witness at this time, but should be subject to considered and the witness at this time, but should be subject to considered and the will talk it for the confidence of the con advisable to interview
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stood that he will talk
it forought before the
Grand Jury, after hale
end his allies are in
cultody. Writings has taked that Bill Hele 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 istated that he knows all about the Smith blowup.

Page 847. Subjects and question last pare fully perore using before using before Grand Jury.

This man is an ex-boot-least.

Ltue al. A had this witness was at a lange some time after the explosion of Bill smith a house where she met and talked with kruest Bur hart, 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. forget what he had said. She upon being interviewed by Agent Weakley stated she had worked for Ernest Burkhart, and that one time after the explosion she saw him at a dance and he was drunk, and they were atalring about the explosion and he said that he was afraid for Hollie, 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.

age 114. Subplems and cuestion and pare fully before paint be-

-95A.

Drie party made the following statement October No. 1986, to Special Agenta F. S. Smith and J. V. Eurphy: T. B. Maite, Special Agent in Charge, and Luther Bishop, State Bureau of Criminal Investigation:

Me My name is Burt Lawson. I, am 46 years of age. All have been a resident of Osage Co. . . Okla. for 23 or 24 years. I am now serving a seven-year sentence at Licalester State Penitentiary for second degree burglary. Before being sent to MoAlester I last lived at Tulsa, Okla. The exact date I have forgotten, but as near as I can recall. I was in the employ of W. E. "Bill" Smith as a foreman on his farm and nanch, located near Grayhorse, in Osage County, Okla. covering a period from some time in 1918 up to some time in 1921. Thile, 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 hetween 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 os ive months before I left the sinploymet of Bill Smith and moved from its
ranch, and while I was in Grayhorse for a
load of feed. I met Bill Hale on the main
road going into Grayhorse, near Bill Smith's
house. Tale was riding a horse. Hale stopbod metald said to me. "Do you know that
that G. D. diety S--of a B--- Smith

authoring for Grand

-96 a-

Rung and Killerim. " I told Hale. " "elle don't want to get in any more trouble." Afterothat 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 Abgust, 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 010,000 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 8-- 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, Ican show you how to fix it so there won't be any danger." Hale then picked

and said "Now I'll show you how to wet it offeno you won't get hurt." Eale then held the two sticks about en inoh apart and said to just out a short piece of fuse and split the end open on it and split the end open on the long fuee: 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 then lighting the long piece with a match. Bill Hale talked ion 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 chargerd 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

well 1 11 get everything fixed and be back after you in the next times 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 unlooked it and said, "Burt, come out hore 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 nointed out to a cer 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 he 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 Burkhart's house. When we got there we went in to the front room and found Ernest Burkhart there. Burkhart said some- .. thing 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 Burkhart to get us a drink. Ernest went out and came back with some whishey and we all drank. Hale then said that Bill Buith and his family were at a snow,

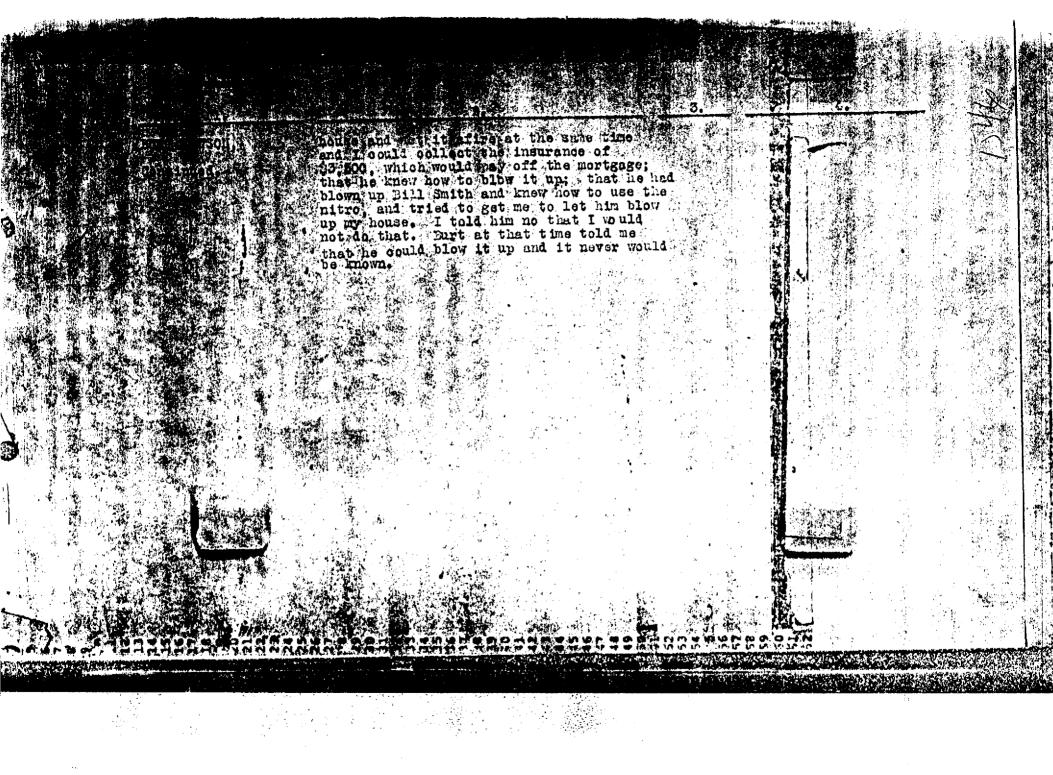
re beck until late and told mereto go get the box. Ernest went out gone a few minutes and came back withre small hox about a foot square and ast it down on the floor by us. This box I could see had a dug in it with the neok sticking out through a hole in the top. and had a his roll of white fuse laying on top of the box with one and of the fuse running thru a cork in the jug. Hele remarked. "Low 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 linew 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 thedark 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." ..c then waited quite a while and finally Hale said "Well, its time to go." Ernest Burkhart took the box with the fuse and we

all were 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 sup ose 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 Burkhart's. going down the alley. When I got to Burkhart's house, Bill Hale was out on Burkharts porch waiting for me. I whispered to him and said . " Well I touched her off, the fuse was suring whom I left." I went en in the house Hele remained on the porch

over a sent ing on The Stable and hat time heard the explosion. Hale nhan name into the room and said. "Well she went sife Lets all take a drink and I'll rush you back to jail in Pawhusha, and I'm going to take a little trip, " Hale and I then went out and got in a Buick can and beat it for Pawhuska, and to the North entrance of the jail, and blowed 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 emplosion. 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 3200 and he wouldn't even answer my letter.

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

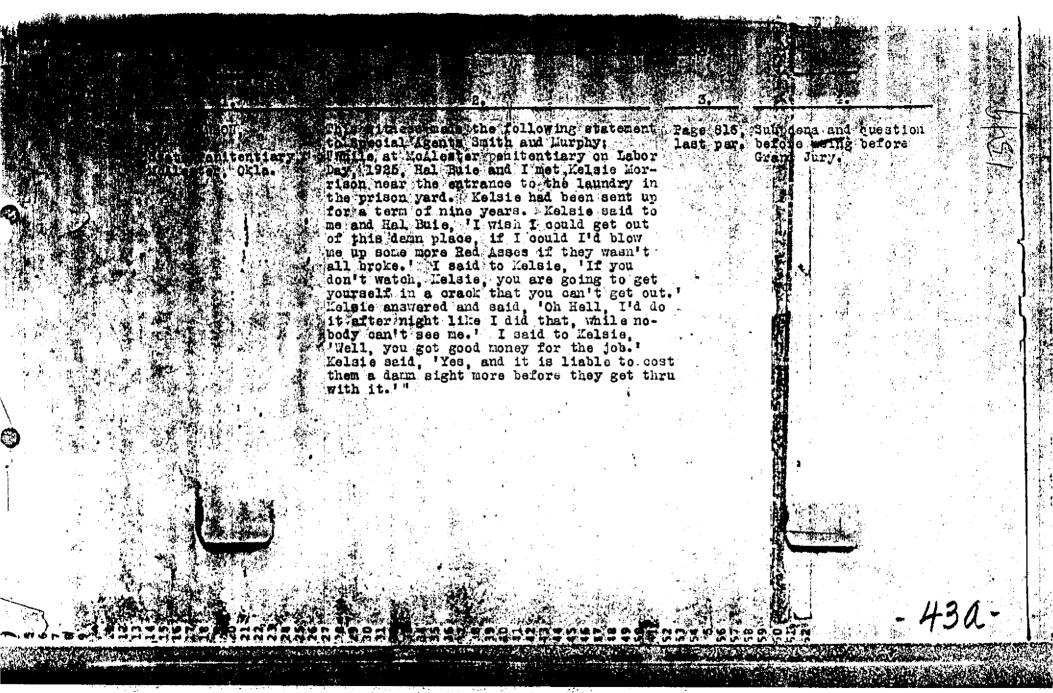
Page 826.



Lang of Market Lines Russer 1924, Burt 1 Fage 825 Lang of Market Lines Russer for quite a last particle and who had placed confidence in mericany stimes 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 after 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.

Schnoena and question to live Grand Jury.

This witness is not a poly and the state of the proper time. This man's wife will almost a nervous reck after the reign of terror in Osase this withes lived edjoining heighbor to Page 641, inna Brown. Anna Brown a house is now 6th parowned by Bill Hale. It is understood that this witness has material information regarding the Anna Brown murder, yand will be interviewed at the proper time. of terror in Osage Chunty, and Case had Totake her from Fairfax for awhile after the Osage Indian murders.



made the following statement Subplace and opestion to Special Agents Smith and Murphy: before will 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 dann 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 remerked, 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. | Lelsie then said, 'I don't care a damn for you knowing all about it, you wouldn't turn anybody in. Burt said something about Melsie 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).

