

the kidnaping before it started but that Sawyer insisted upon going through with it. Bolton testified that some of the boys often expressed themselves as being opposed to Harry Sawyer's policy of "fooling with the Government", and that they were very much worried about this matter and they often made the comment that had it not been for Harry Sawyer they would not have gone through with the kidnaping.

PATRICIA GHERRINGTON who was the consort of John Hamilton during 1933 and 1934 and who is presently serving a two year sentence in the Federal Detention Home at Milan, Michigan for harboring John Dillinger advised agents of the Bureau that shortly after John Dillinger and Homer Van Meter shot their way out of a police trap at their apartment on Lexington Avenue in St. Paul on March 31, 1934, she together with her sister and John Hamilton proceeded to a restaurant in St. Paul where they contacted Homer Van Meter, who immediately took them to Harry Sawyer's cottage near St. Paul where they remained for four days. She further stated that they received a tip that this farm was to be raided and left hurriedly, returning to St. Paul where they then contacted Tommy Carroll and Baby Face Nelson.

VIVIAN MATHIAS, who was the paramour of Vernon C. Miller a principal in the Kansas City massacre advised agents of the Bureau that she and Miller had known Harry Sawyer for approximately five years during which period he operated a saloon on Wabasha Avenue in St. Paul; that they visited with Sawyer and his wife Gladys in their home at 1878 Jefferson Street St. Paul several times. Miss Mathias further stated that at different times while she was in his place on Wabasha Avenue she had seen practically all of the hoodlums she knows in his place.

JESS DOYLE a notorious bank robber and who is presently in jail at St. Paul for bank robbery advised agents of the Bureau that Harry Sawyer and his wife Gladys for a long time had been protecting gangsters and criminals during the time they were in St. Paul. In this connection he stated that on one occasion during March 1933 about a week after he, Fred, and Doc Barker arrived in St. Paul from Reno, Nevada he came home one night alone, from a movie; that he observed Gladys Sawyer the wife of Harry Sawyer seated in her car in front of the building at the address where he and the Barkers were living. According to Doyle, Gladys Sawyer asked him where Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis were and when he told her he did not know she stated that he had better look for them as Harry Sawyer had received information that the police were going to raid their apartment in the morning. Doyle advised that he went downtown to look

for Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis to furnish them this information but could not find them. When he returned Gladys Sawyer was still sitting in her car in front of the building and at that time she told him that Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis had been there and that she had already warned them; further that the Barkers and Karpis would meet Doyle in her husband's place on Wabasha Avenue.

Jess Doyle also advised that the day following the bank robbery at Fairbury, Nebraska which was staged by the Barker-Karpis gang he accompanied Doc Barker to St. Paul where Barker contacted Harry Sawyer; that the securities which were taken from the Fairbury bank were left with Harry Sawyer in order that he might dispose of them.

IRENE DORSEY who was the consort of Fred Goetz a prominent member of the Capone syndicate in Chicago and a notorious bank robber and criminal who was killed in gangland fashion at Cicero, Illinois in 1934, advised agents of the Bureau that Sawyer and his wife paid them a visit in Chicago, Illinois in September 1934; that on the night Chicago Police officer Miles Cunningham was killed following a bank messenger holdup, Fred Goetz and Harry Sawyer left her apartment at about 6 P.M.; that they returned to the apartment shortly after midnight and apparently were very much excited; that she subsequently heard through conversations with Fred Goetz, information which indicated that Harry Sawyer may possibly have been a participant in this holdup and subsequent shooting.

Respectfully submitted,

*John L. Madala*

JOHN L. MADALA

Special Agent.

JLM:JMS

St. Paul, Minnesota  
July 1, 1935

Pursuant to the request of Special Agent in Charge Harold E. Andersen of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, St. Paul, Minnesota, Mr. L. D. Socey, operative of the United States Secret Service, assigned to the St. Paul Office, submits the following information concerning his knowledge of the investigation conducted in Cleveland, Ohio, with reference to WYNONA BURDETTE, MRS. HARRY SAWYER, and PAULA HARMON, members of the BARKER-KARPIS mob:

From records and recollection, it was during September 1934 when the above named women were arrested by the Cleveland Police. At that time I was a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, assigned to the Detroit Bureau Office. Special Agent J. K. Collins, formerly of the Detroit Bureau Office, and myself were instructed to proceed to Cleveland, Ohio, to assist in the instant investigation at that point.

We were instructed to report to Police Headquarters at Lakewood, Ohio. During that day, as I recall, and perhaps the following day, I had no occasion to interview the above named women or be present during the course of interview with them. The manner in which they were arrested, and how they were brought to the Lakewood Police Headquarters, is beyond my knowledge. However, on or about the second day after my arrival in Cleveland, late at night, I was instructed to proceed to a small residential hotel, the name of which I do not recall, located in Lakewood, Ohio, and there assist Agents Collins and W. E. Hopwon. Upon my arrival there I observed three women, two occupying beds in one room and the third occupying a bed in another room directly across the hall, whom I was informed were WYNONA BURDETTE, MRS. HARRY SAWYER, and PAULA HARMON. These women were at that time sleeping and I remained in the hallway outside of these two rooms the remainder of the night. The following morning, after these women had awakened and dressed, breakfast was bought for them at a nearby restaurant and they ate and appeared friendly.

Later that morning these women were turned over to Lakewood Police, following which I understand they were removed to Chicago, Illinois.

At no time, to my knowledge, were these women mistreated nor were any rough tactics used on them, and they appeared entirely on a friendly basis.

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L. D. Socey

St. Paul, Minnesota  
July 1, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE H. E. ANDERSEN:

This is to advise that on September 14, 1934, in company with Agents Melvin and McIntire, I arrived at the Chicago Office about 2:00 A.M. from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and at that time in the Chicago Office Agent Muzzie was present. We were at that time advised that PAULA HARMON, WYNONA BURDETTE, and MRS. HARRY SAWYER were asleep, and that the following morning, about 6:00 A.M., PAULA HARMON had agreed to accompany agents into Northern Illinois for the purpose of assisting in locating the BRECKER hideout.

Agents Melvin, McIntire and myself called again at the Chicago Office about 6:00 A.M., September 14, 1934, and after our arrival PAULA HARMON was awakened and evidently indicated that she would not go on the proposed trip. Agent R. D. Brown talked to her considerably in a very kindly manner, and finally MRS. HARRY SAWYER came into the discussion of her own volition and strongly argued with PAULA HARMON to go on this trip as she had planned. MRS. SAWYER was not mistreated in any way.

Finally MRS. SAWYER said she would go with the others on this trip, and she, PAULA HARMON, a matron, and Agents Brown and McIntire proceeded in Agent Brown's car. Agent Melvin, myself, and another agent whose name I have forgotten, followed in another automobile. They all proceeded to Round Lake and Long Lake, Illinois, and then to Lake Geneva and Twin Lakes, Wisconsin, returning to Chicago about 5:00 P.M. the same date. MRS. SAWYER was treated very well all day. She and PAULA HARMON were taken to breakfast at Round Lake, Illinois, and then later were taken to dinner at Twin Lakes, Wisconsin. Both MRS. SAWYER and PAULA HARMON were well treated during the day and I did not hear an unpleasant word spoken to them or in their presence.

Very truly yours,

*R. T. Noonan*  
R. T. NOONAN  
Special Agent

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July 2, 1935  
Chicago, Illinois.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN.

During September of last year while Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdett and Paula Harmon were being retained in the Chicago office of the Bureau for questioning in connection with the Bremer kidnaping case I was specifically assigned by the late Inspector S. P. Cowley to question WYNONA BURDETT. Agent R. D. Brown was assigned to interview Paula Harmon and Special Agent R. C. Suran was instructed to question Gladys Sawyer. As I recall these women were brought to the Chicago office from Cleveland, Ohio on September 9, 1934 and to the best of my knowledge they were not questioned by anyone until the morning of September 10, 1934 when Mr. Cowley introduced me to Wynona Burdett.

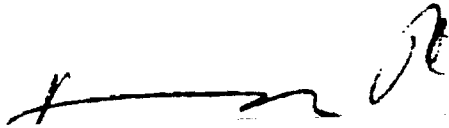
I interviewed Miss Burdett intermittently for about four days during which period I secured a lengthy signed statement from her concerning her travels and associations with the Barker-Karpis mob, and particularly Harry Campbell, the man with whom she had been living as man and wife.

I was the only Agent to interview Miss Burdett during her confinement at the Chicago office and at no time was she subjected by me to any all night grilling. She had her regular meals, regular sleep, and in no instance was anything denied her which tended to add to her comfort. While I was in her company and to the best of my knowledge every consideration was shown her. She was attended by a matron whenever occasion arose and the sanitary conditions under which she and the other women were held were adequate. Miss Burdett was never mistreated or abused by me in any manner, nor was she accorded such treatment by other Agents in my presence or to my knowledge. In fact the kind treatment given her ultimately resulted in gaining her confidence, which subsequently led to her making a signed statement. She expressed this fact to me on several occasions.

I also desire to state that in no instance was any drug administered to Wynona Burdett nor do I have any personal knowledge of drugs being administered to Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon.

On the first night that Wynona Burdett was held at the Chicago office there was no cot available. However on the following day a daybed was secured, which she was permitted to use during her entire period of confinement.

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During the time these women were in custody two matrons attended them at all times, one matron working the night shift and the other the day shift. In numerous instances these matrons were assisted during the day by the various stenographers in the Chicago Bureau office.

I also desire to state that Wynona Burdett did not indicate to me at any time that she desired an attorney. However, on the day previous to the time Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdett and Paula Harmon were released arrangements were made by Mr. Cowley to secure an attorney for Gladys Sawyer in order that she might obtain her furniture, which was in Cleveland, Ohio, through legal process. To my knowledge this was the only instance when an attorney was requested by any of the three women.

I did not relate any obscene stories to Wynona Burdett at any time and heard no such stories related to her. Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer used vulgar and indecent language frequently and at times such language was used in the presence of the stenographers of the Chicago office. I spoke to her several times in an effort to stop her from using such language.

In conclusion I desire to state that it is my observation that there was a spirit of friendliness at all times between the three women and the various Agents who were attached to the Chicago office at that time and in no instance did I hear any of the above women complain of any treatment accorded them.

Respectfully submitted,

*John L. Madala*  
JOHN L. MADALA,

Special Agent.

JLM:JMS

July 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN

In re: WYNONA BURDETT, aliases:  
Wynona Walcott, Miss Graham,  
Mrs. Ray Summers, Mrs. G. L.  
Summers

This memorandum is submitted for the purpose of setting forth certain information concerning the character and criminal associates of Wynona Burdett.

Wynona Burdett according to her oral statements to Special Agents R. C. Suran and J. L. Madala, was first married at the age of 16 but divorced this first husband after a few months. In her written statement dated at Chicago, Illinois, September 13, 1934, Wynona Burdett states that she was married to one Eldon Stanbrough with whom she lived for about five months, after which she separated from him and began to live with Harry Campbell. She stated at the time of her statement that she had been living with Harry Campbell for approximately three and one half years. She also orally advised Special Agents R. C. Suran and J. L. Madala that to her knowledge she was never divorced from Stanbrough, although this individual may have secured a divorce.

At the time she met Harry Campbell at Tulsa, Oklahoma, Harry was associating with well known Oklahoma bank robbers by the names of Jim Lawson and Glen LeRoy Wright. Wynona in her statement advises that she came to Hammond, Indiana, around September 28 or 29, 1933, and for the first time met Willie Harrison, who is presently a fugitive in connection with the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer. She also met Doc and Freddie Barker. She subsequently advised that Doc and Freddie were life-long friends of Harry Campbell. She advises in her statement that she began associating with these individuals above named, together with Paula Harmon, going to Reno, Nevada, with them during October of 1933, at which place Alvin Karpis and Dolores Delaney were also with this party, Karpis at the present time being a fugitive in connection with the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer and Dolores Delaney, his paramour, is presently confined at the United States Detention Farm, Milan, Michigan, for misprision of a felony and harboring Alvin Karpis and conspiracy. Wynona Burdett advises in her statement that this entire mob left Reno, Nevada, around the first of December, 1933 and proceeded to St. Paul, Minnesota, where they drove to Harry Sawyer's farm, which is located some distance from St. Paul. At this place she met Harry and Gladys Sawyer for the first time.

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146 DEC 11 1970

She stated that Freddie Barker, Paula Harmon, Harry Campbell and herself frequently went cabareting at the Hollyhocks Inn, St. Paul, at which place she met Jack Pfeiffer for the first time. During this trip to St. Paul, Minnesota, Wynona Burdett also associated with such individuals as Volney Davis, Edna Murray, Bill Weaver and Myrtle Eaton, all of whom are connected with the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer in some way. During January, 1934, Wynona became acquainted and began associating with Fred Goetz alias Shotgun Zeigler, well known member of the Capone Syndicate who was assassinated apparently by gangsters in Chicago Illinois, in March of 1934, and who has definitely been connected with the abduction of Edward George Bremer. During this period of time Wynona Burdett lived with Harry Campbell as his wife.

Wynona Burdett was arrested at Cleveland, Ohio, on September 5, 1934, with Paula Harmon and Mrs. Gladys Sawyer for disorderly conduct and was subsequently turned over to this Bureau and brought to Chicago, Illinois, after signing a waiver of removal. Wynona Burdett was released from the custody of this Bureau on or about September 25, 1934, and returned to the State of Oklahoma, where a few weeks later she again met Harry Campbell at Ponca City, Oklahoma, according to her own statements, and proceeded with him to the State of Florida. She and Harry Campbell began living with Fred Barker and his mother Kate Barker, at Oklawaha, Florida but left that place prior to the shooting affair which occurred there between Agents of the Bureau and Freddie and Kate Barker at which time the latter two were slain in the gun battle. During the time this battle was in progress Wynona Burdett was with Harry Campbell, Alvin Karpis and Dolores Delaney at Miami, Florida. Upon receiving word of the death of Freddie and Kate Barker, Wynona Burdett with Alvin Karpis, Harry Campbell and Dolores Delaney fled to Atlantic City, New Jersey, where Alvin Karpis and Harry Campbell succeeded in making their escape from the Atlantic City, New Jersey, police on January 20, 1935. Wynona Burdett and Dolores Delaney were arrested and returned to Miami, Florida, where they entered pleas of guilty to five indictments on March 25, 1935, which indictments and sentences received on each are as follows:

- Indictment No. 4617 - Misprision of a felony, sentence 3 years;
- Indictment No. 4613 - Conspiracy to commit misprision of a felony, sentence 2 years, to run concurrently with sentence imposed under indictment No. 4617;
- Indictment No. 4616 - Harboring and concealing Alvin Karpis, sentence 6 months to run concurrently with Indictment No. 4617 and consecutively with Indictment No. 4613;
- Indictment No. 4608 - Conspiracy to harbor and conceal Alvin Karpis, sentence 2 years, to run consecutively with those imposed under Indictments Nos. 4617, 4616 and 4613;

Indictment No. 4610 - Conspiracy to commit misprision of a felony, sentence 2 years, to run concurrently with that under Indictment No. 4608, and consecutively with those under Indictment Nos. 4617, 4613 and 4616.

In addition to the above record Wynona Burdett also admits being arrested at Tulsa, Oklahoma on a charge of harboring Harry Campbell at that place about three years ago during the time that Harry Campbell was being sought in connection with a murder at that place. This murder was the killing of J. Earl Smith, an attorney at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Harry Campbell is presently wanted by the Oklahoma State authorities in connection with that case.

The criminal record of Harry Campbell with whom Wynona Burdett has lived for about four years is as follows:

As Harry Campbell, #1846, arrested Police Department, Tulsa, Oklahoma, December 25, 1920, charge investigation, fined \$19 and costs;

As Harry Campbell, #11056, received State Penitentiary, McAlester, Oklahoma, January 30, 1921, from Lincoln County, Okla., crime bank robbery, held for safe keeping; discharged June 11, 1921 on order of Court;

As Harry Campbell, #9420, arrested Sheriff's office, Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 29, 1932, charge burglary, released on bond; case pending.

Wynona Burdett recently testified for the Government in the trial of Arthur "Doc" Barker, et al, at St. Paul, Minnesota, for the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer, and she has promised to testify in future trials in connection with this case.

Respectfully submitted,

*R. C. Suran*

R. C. SURAN,  
Special Agent.

RCS:MG

June 30, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN

In re: PAULA HARMON with aliases: Paula Woods, Paula Brannon, Mrs. Charles Preston Harmon, Mrs. Theo Riley, Mrs. Dennis Woods, Mrs. C. P. Harmon, Mrs. Tom Brown, Polly Walker, Polly Brannan, Mrs. J. Stanley Smith, Marie Mayer, Marie Rainey, Marie Merritt

This memorandum is submitted for the purpose of setting forth certain information concerning the character and criminal associates of Paula Harmon.

In the report of Special Agent R. D. Brown, dated 9/19/34 at Chicago, Illinois, the statement of Paula Harmon dated at Chicago, Illinois, September 15, 1934, is set forth. In this statement she states that she was married to one Dennis Wood at Port Arthur, Texas in 1921 and divorced this individual in the year 1922. In 1925 Paula Harmon, according to her statement, married one Charles Harmon whose full name was Charles Preston Harmon. This marriage took place shortly after Harmon was released from the Texas Penitentiary at Huntsville, Texas, where he had been serving a term for robbery. She furnished the further information in her statement that Charles Harmon was released from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on January 9, 1931, and that she proceeded to Leavenworth and met him at the time of his release, after which the two of them went to Kansas City, Missouri and met an individual known as "Jelly", who she later determined to be one Frank Nash, a notorious bank robber and mail robber. With Nash they proceeded to the home of Herb and Esther Farmer at Joplin, Missouri. These latter two individuals were later convicted in connection with the Kansas City Massacre case for conspiracy to deliver a Federal prisoner, the Federal prisoner being Frank Nash. Farmer had previously been confined in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, at McAlester, Oklahoma, where he associated and became friendly with Frank Nash.

Paula Harmon's statement contains the further information that after leaving Joplin, Missouri, she proceeded with Charles Harmon to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they associated with various confidence men and at which place she had a fuss with Harmon and came to Chicago, Illinois, where she opened a house of prostitution commonly known as a "call house", on the North side of Chicago. She further advised in her

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*[Handwritten signature]*

statement that she did not operate this house for a long period of time, but left the same and went to St. Paul, Minnesota, with Charles Harmon, which was the occasion of her first visit to St. Paul, and it was through Harmon that she met such notorious characters as Leon Glickman, Jack Pfeiffer and Harry and Gladys Sawyer.

The report of Special Agent F. J. Lackey, Kansas City, Missouri, dated December 8, 1931, submitted in the case entitled FRANCIS L. KEATING with aliases - FUGITIVE, I.O. 1129; THOMAS HOLDEN with aliases - FUGITIVE, I.O. 1127; FRANK NASH - FUGITIVE; ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS, relates that information was obtained from the authorities at Menominee, Wisconsin, that Charles P. Harmon, Paula's husband, was shot and killed at the Kraft State Bank, Menominee, Wisconsin, during the robbery of that institution on October 20, 1931. At this time another bank robber by the name of Frank Weber was also slain, Weber having previously served a sentence in the Utah State Prison. At this time Harmon was a parole violator from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

Paula states that she left St. Paul, Minnesota, in April or May of 1931 and went to Joplin, Missouri, where she visited Herb and Esther Farmer and at this place met Freddie Barker. Also visiting the Farmers at this time were Vivian Mathis, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy in connection with the Kansas City Massacre case, and Verne Miller, who was definitely identified as one of the actual killers in that case. She stated that prior to the time that she left St. Paul, Minnesota, she ran around with Frank Nash, Verne Miller, Vi Mathis and many others of that character, visiting night clubs including Jack Pfeiffer's place, and also spent a great deal of time at Harry Sawyer's saloon on Wabasha Avenue.

The report of Special Agent C. B. Winstead, Dallas, Texas, dated January 31, 1934, reflects the information obtained from one Theodore Riley. It states that Paula Harmon lived for about nine months prior to April, 1933, with Theodore Riley at Beaumont, Texas, Riley being a burglar and bootlegger. Paula and Theodore Riley operated a bootlegging establishment on Center Street at Beaumont, Texas and are reported to have been drunk while living together. Also in this report it is reflected that Paula Harmon was married to a tramp by the name of Doyle Benton in July, 1932 after Paula had collected insurance money as a result of an automobile accident near Lake Charles, Louisiana, from which accident she suffered severe injuries which left her face disfigured.

The report of Special Agent M. A. Taylor, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated February 7, 1934, reflects that Paula's marriage to Doyle Benton took place on July 18, 1932, at Lake Charles, Louisiana.

In Paula Harmon's statement she said that on April 3, 1933, she received a telegram or telephone call from Vivian Mathis at Kansas City, Missouri, to visit her at Kansas City, Missouri, and that in response to this she proceeded to Kansas City, Missouri and met Freddie Barker. She stated that she visited Vivian Mathis about two weeks during April of 1933, which it will be noted was just prior to the Kansas City Massacre on June 17, 1933, and that while there she met Arthur "Doc" Barker who had just been released from the penitentiary. Some corroboration of the statement of Paula as to her proceeding to Kansas City, Missouri, is contained in the report of Special Agent C. B. Winstead, Dallas, Texas, dated February 27, 1934, in which it is stated that the records of the telephone company at Beaumont, Texas, reflect that telephone number 6855 was located at 775 Madison Street and was installed in the name of Preston Harmon on October 3, 1932, was removed to the address of 994 Center Street on February 10, 1933, and was abandoned on May 29, 1933. Under date of April 21, 1933, a telegram was charged to this telephone number reading as follows: "To Mrs. Vivian Moore, phone Jackson 7073, Kansas City, Missouri: Please meet train Sunday at same time. Signed, Georgia." Vivian Moore is identical with Vivian Mathis, the paramour of Verne Miller, machine gunner in the Kansas City Massacre. This report also reflects that a telephone call was made from this number on January 31, 1933, to Mrs. Gladys Sawyer, telephone Emerson 2022, St. Paul, Minnesota. Paula Harmon advises in her statement that subsequent to her visit to Vivian Mathis in Kansas City, Missouri, she and Vivian proceeded to St. Paul, Minnesota, and visited with Harry and Gladys Sawyer; that Freddie Barker was committed to a hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, in June, 1933, and after his release Freddie began living with her.

The Chicago file contains a letter to the Director dated April 13, 1934, from Inspector H. H. Clegg, which relates that Bessie Skinner, the paramour of the notorious bank robber Eddie Green, stated that on Christmas day of 1933 a Christmas dinner was had at Harry Sawyer's farm near St. Paul, Minnesota, at which the following individuals were present: Doc Barker, Bill Weaver, Myrtle Eaton, Paula Harmon, Volney Davis and his girl Grace.

The report of Special Agent J. V. Murphy, San Antonio, Texas, dated March 1, 1934, reflects that the records of the Identification Bureau of the Houston Police Department show that Paula Harmon as Polly Walker nee Brannan was arrested on March 5, 1933, charged with loitering, Houston Police Department No. 4038. The records further reflect that Paula Harmon as Mrs. C. P. Harmon, Rock Island, Illinois, Police Department No. 1303, was arrested with C. P. Harmon, their number 1305, James Ira Harmon, their number 1306 and Leota Graham their number 1304, on the charge of robbery of the Underwood, Iowa, Post Office, these individuals all being



returned to Council Bluffs, Iowa, on February 26, 1926, and held for the Federal Grand Jury. The women were released at this time.

The criminal record of Freddie Barker with whom Paula Harmon lived from 1933 until the time of her arrest at Cleveland, Ohio, on September 5, 1934, is as follows:

Arrested PD, Miami, Oklahoma, as Fred Barker, 9/5/22, charge investigation;  
Arrested PD, Tulsa, Oklahoma, as Fred Barker #3204, 10/5/22, charge vagrancy (State charge), 30 days city jail;  
Received State Reformatory, Granite, Oklahoma, as Fred Barker, #4079, 6/28/23, conjoint robbery, five years;  
Arrested PD, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, as J. Darrows, #293, 12/19/25, charge investigation - bank robber; disposition rel. to Co.; 12/23/25, rel. to Fed. auth.;  
Arrested PD, Little Rock, Arkansas, as Fred Barker #3575, date not given; fingerprinted 5/28/26; charge fug. from justice; 5/28/26 rel. to Ft. Smith - rel. under \$1000 bond (burg. and G.L.) bond forfeited;  
Arrested PD, Ponca City, Oklahoma, as F. G. Ward, 7/25/26, charge burg.; del. to Winfield, Kans.;  
Arrested PD, Winfield, Kans., as Fred Barker, Nov. 1926 (day of mo. unknown) charge burg. and larceny (2 counts); Feb. 1927, sent. 8 to 10 yrs. SP on charge of burglary;  
Received SP, Lansing, Kans., as Fred Barker #9836, 3/12/27, charge burg. 2nd degree; 5 to 10 yrs.; rel. upon exp. of sent. 3/29/31;  
Arrested PD, Tulsa, Okla., as Fred Barker #3204, 6/10/31; charge investigation - burg. - fugitive; ret'd to SO, Claremore, Okla., 7/13/31 on charge of burglary;  
Arrested PD, Okmulgee, Okla. as Fred Barker #293, 6/10/31, charge burg.; disposition - to Co.; 6/12/31 warr. burg. rec. SO, Okmulgee, Okla. 6/16/31, ret'd. "Found". Case filed 7/8/31; 10/5/31 bench warrant issued; bond furnished; 10/12/31 failed to appear and bond forfeited; 10/12/32, entry of cause pl. on retired docket and case unlikely to be called for trial.

ADmits: being shot in Kans. City, Mo., attempting to get away from officers. (As on print #--, PD, Miami, Okla.)

ADmits: arrested Tulsa, Okla. on one previous occasion, charge car theft; case is pending. (As on print #3204)

ADmits: Now on \$10,000 bond. (As on print #--, PD, Miami, Okla.)

WANTED BY DIVISION: As Fred Barker, suspect - conspiracy to deliver Federal Prisoner. Notify Div. Off., Kans. City, Mo., per Div. file #62-28915-1092.

WANTED: As Fred Barker, escaped from Co. Jail, Claremore, Okla. 8/16/31, (burg. and assault with intent to kill). Notify PD, Tulsa, Okla. and SO, Claremore, Okla., per inf. recd. 8/24/31 from PD, Tulsa, Okla., and wire from Div. Off., Okla City, Okla. 2/19/34.

WANTED: As Fred Barker for murder. Notify PD and SO, West Plains, Mo., per inf. recd. 1/2/32. Also notify Supt., Bureau of Ident'n., Tulsa, Okla., STILL WANTED, per "True Detective Mysteries", April 1932. STILL WANTED, per inf. recd. 5/12/32.

WANTED: As Fred Barker, bond forfeiture (burg. and G.L.). Notify Div. Off., Okla City for Ft. Smith, Ark., per wire from Div Off., Okla City, Okla., 2/19/34.

WANTED BY DIVISION: As Fred Barker, suspect in Bremer kidnaping case. Notify Director, per inf. recd. 9/22/34;

WANTED BY DIVISION: As Fred Barker, temp. want in connection with Bremer Kidnap case. Notify Director, per inf. recd. 10/16/34.

WANTED BY DIVISION: As Fred Barker, Fugitive Index #5970, Div. file #62-28915, O.O. St. Paul, Minn. per inf. recd. 1/10/35, Div. Wanted Man.

The report of Special Agent H. T. Arterberry, Dallas, Texas, dated March 16, 1935, contains information that Paula Harmon was tried at Houston, Texas, before a jury in the County Court at that place and was adjudged of insane mind and it was ordered that she be committed to the State Hospital for the Insane. She was accordingly committed to the State Hospital for the Insane at Rusk, Texas, on January 20, 1935. Investigation by this Bureau at Beaumont, Texas, shows that Paula Harmon associated with prostitutes and bootleggers at that place. During the time that Paula Harmon was in custody of this Bureau, it was learned that she was a woman of little principle and excitable and nervous.

Respectfully submitted,

*R. C. Suran*  
R. C. SURAN,  
Special Agent.

RCS:MG

July 2, 1935.  
Chicago, Illinois.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN.

I am presently employed as a stenographer for the General American Tank Corporation at East Chicago, Indiana and my residence address is 430 Highland Avenue, Hammond, Indiana. I am now living under the name of Dorothy Ervin which is my maiden name.

During September 1934 I was employed as a matron at the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. I entered on duty as a matron on August 31, 1934 but did not begin work at the Chicago office until September 9, 1934 on which day Special Agent R. D. Brown telephoned me at my home and instructed me to report for duty.

From September 9, 1934 to September 16, 1934 I worked at the Chicago office of the Bureau during the hours of 8 P.M. to 8 A.M. My duties as a matron were to attend to the needs of Paula Harmon, as well as to guard her. I remained in Paula Harmon's company almost constantly during this period. On a few occasions I assisted Mrs. Monahan, another matron, in the attendance of Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon.

On or about September 16, 1934 Special Agents McIntire and Brown drove Paula Harmon and Gladys Sawyer to Wisconsin in an effort to locate the Bremer hideout which Paula Harmon believed she could locate. I accompanied Paula Harmon and Gladys Sawyer on this trip upon Mr. Cowley's instructions and a car containing four Special Agents followed us during the entire trip. As I recall Mr. Cowley permitted Gladys Sawyer to make this trip together with Paula Harmon to get some fresh air. We stopped on two occasions for meals and upon our return to Chicago we proceeded to an apartment on Sheridan Road where we found Mrs. Monahan and two Special Agents with Wynona Burdett. The three women, namely Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett remained in this apartment for approximately one week during which time Mrs. Monahan and I worked in twelve hour shifts. There were also on duty during this period two Special Agents of the Chicago office on each shift.

On September 23 or 24, 1934 the women were returned to the Chicago Bureau office and Mrs. Monahan and I continued to work on a twelve hour shift. At this time the detention rooms in the rear of the Chicago office were completed and it was possible for one matron to attend to the needs of all three women alone.

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I wish to state that during the entire time I was on duty as a matron, both in the Chicago office and in the apartment on Sheridan Road I at no time witnessed any mistreatment or abuse of either Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer or Wynona Burdett at the hands of Bureau Agents. Also at no time were these women subjected to any all night grilling, and on each day during their confinement they had the proper amount of sleep and regular meals. I also did not overhear any obscene stories or vulgar language on the part of the Agents; neither did I witness any "third degree" methods of any description being used on Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer or Wynona Burdett, and at no time did I have knowledge of any drug being administered to any of these women. On one occasion Gladys Sawyer requested that she be furnished with certain tablets which had been prescribed for her by a doctor in St. Paul, Minnesota and as I recall the Agents encountered considerable difficulty in procuring these tablets for her, but finally did obtain them. This is the only medicine of any kind which to my knowledge was given to any of these women.

During the time the women were in the apartment on Sheridan Road they were shown every consideration by me and the Agents who were present. At no time were they denied any reasonable request. Appropriate sanitary facilities were provided at this apartment and all meals were prepared by me during our stay at the apartment.

Paula Harmon, Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer frequently used vulgar and indecent language but at no time did the Agents use such language. The women were allowed to read magazines but not newspapers, and during their stay at the apartment the women played cards with the Agents and myself during most of the day. All in all there was a spirit of friendliness with the Agents both at the Chicago office and at the apartment, and at no time did I hear any of the women complain of the treatment accorded them.

Respectfully submitted,

  
DOROTHY HORNEY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~Department of Justice~~

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1276  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
July 1, 1935

DB:VC

Mr. Harold Nathan, Assistant Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your telephonic request  
of July 1, 1935, I am transmitting herewith state-  
ments of Special Agents J. V. Murphy and J. R. Welles  
of this office relative to allegations made by Paula  
Harmon, Gladys Sawyer, and Wynona Burdette.

Very truly yours,

*Dwight Brantley*  
DWIGHT BRANTLEY,  
Special Agent in Charge.

cc Bureau  
Enclosure.

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Scheldt  
Mr. Schloer  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

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JVL:WHH

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
July 1, 1935

STATEMENT OF J. V. MURPHY, SPECIAL AGENT  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

My name is J. V. Murphy, Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, now assigned to the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Office.

During September, 1934 I was assigned to the Chicago, Illinois Office of the Bureau.

With reference to Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdette, who were being detained at the Chicago Office of this Bureau, during September, 1934, the exact dates of which I do not recall, I wish to state that sometime in the early part of September, exact date unknown, three women were brought to the Chicago Office to be questioned in connection with the Bremer kidnaping case. These three women, whom I later learned were Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdette, were being questioned in connection with the above mentioned matter, and were being detained for questioning in the Chicago Office, during which period this agent was designated for guard duty, with other agents, and one matron, day and night. I believe my period of duty was part day and part night. My duty, as well as the other agents, who were assigned with me on guard duty, was to sit in the hall way next to the rooms in which the above three mentioned women were detained. The matron also sat in the hall way when not needed by any of the women in the rooms in which they occupied.

To this agent's knowledge the above three mentioned women did not ask for an attorney.

At no time, to this agent's knowledge, did the above three mentioned women request medical attention.

The above three mentioned women, to this agent's knowledge, were never beaten or struck in any way.

During the period this agent was on duty there was always a matron present. Some obscene stories were told in this agent's presence by some of the women, particularly Wynona Burdette. To my knowledge no Agent told any obscene stories.

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There were no agents displayed any guns or did any dry shooting in the presence of these women, to this agent's knowledge. This agent heard no agents apply any epithets to the above three mentioned women.

To this agent's knowledge no threats were ever applied to the above three mentioned women by any agents.

This agent has no knowledge regarding the property, either taken from the above three mentioned women or delivered to them, and has no information regarding any property of theirs which was not delivered to them. This agent was not present when their property was taken from them or when it was delivered to them.

  
Special Agent

JRW:MMB.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,  
July 1, 1935.

Statement of Special Agent John R. Welles, presently assigned  
to the Oklahoma City Office.

During the month of September, 1934, I was assigned to the Chicago Office. Sometime during the month three women; namely, Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdette, were brought to the Chicago Office for questioning in connection with the Bremer kidnaping case. I believe they had been there several days when I was assigned to aid in guarding them. The duty of the guards was merely to see that they did not leave until told that they might do so by Inspector Samuel P. Cowley. I had nothing to do with questioning these women.

At all times while I was on guard duty there was a matron present to care for the wants of these women. I do not remember the names of these matrons, but they were on duty for twelve hours periods each. Although I talked to the various women at times, none of them ever asked for an attorney, or made mention of retaining an attorney. None of them requested medical attention while in custody and none of them was ever beaten, or struck, or mistreated in any way whatsoever in my presence, nor did I ever hear of such a thing occurring. I did not hear any obscene stories told, although the casual conversation of some of these women, more particularly Wynona Burdette, might have been called obscene at times. Although it was very probable that any of these women could have seen guns which were being worn by Agents, there was never any display made of the guns in my presence and never any dry shooting. To my knowledge, no Agent was ever other than gentlemanly toward these women and they were fed and cared for according to their own requests.

I was not present when these women were brought to the Chicago Office and I do not know whether any property was taken from them. From what they said, I gathered that practically all their property was taken in Cleveland, Ohio, either by their lawyer or by the Police Department, I do not know which. I do know that Gladys Sawyer mentioned someone in Cleveland having her property and she wondered whether she would get it back.

*John R. Welles*  
JOHN R. WELLES,  
Special Agent.

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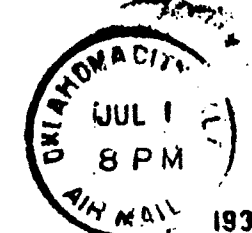
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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

AIRMAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
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Mr. Harold Nathan, Assistant Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Box 1469,  
Little Rock, Arkansas,  
July 1, 1935.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Scheidt .....  
Mr. Schuler .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

Mr. Harold Nathan,  
Assistant Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at Ninth Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your telephone instructions today from Chicago, I am attaching, hereto, my statement with reference to contact with Gladys Reta Sawyer at Chicago during September, 1934.

I trust this statement fully covers the information desired. If there are omissions from the statement about which you desire to be informed, I shall be glad to make any additional statements desired. However, I have set out to the best of my memory, all the details I possess.

Very truly yours,

*R. C. Coulter*  
R. C. COULTER,  
Special Agent.

RCC:B  
Enclosure

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146 DEC 11 1970

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1459,  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
July 1st, 1935

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby certify that on or about September 9th, 1934, I proceeded from Saint Paul, Minnesota to Chicago, Illinois, where I interviewed Gladys Reta Sawyer at 1900 Bankers' Building, which is the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When I entered the offices during the evening of the date of my arrival Mrs. Sawyer was seated in the small Conference Room on the south side, the first room west of the File Room, I believe. At the time I entered the room Mrs. Sawyer was talking to Special Agent R. C. Suran. I do not know the matter they were discussing as their voices were in an ordinary tone and they ceased talking when I entered the room. At the time I did not know Mrs. Sawyer; however, on entering the room she recognized me, calling my name and exhibited a very friendly attitude. She made a very voluminous verbal statement, which was later incorporated into a written statement. During the ensuing twenty-four hours I talked to her the greater part of the time, although at times she expressed the desire to sleep and I would occasionally provide this privilege. Mrs. Sawyer resided in the room in which she was seated during the entire time, single bed and there were a number of other people in the office who provided Mrs. Sawyer with all the comforts she requested. Mrs. Sawyer requested food and coffee, which I personally arranged to provide. Her statement will be borne out in part by charges made in my expense account for the

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To Whom It May Concern:

7/1/35

Month of September. As I now recall I did not enter charges for all of the food, cigarettes and coffee she requested and was provided with.

In as much as Mrs. Sawyer presented a very friendly attitude toward me, advising that she had known me by sight for several years, there were no arguments entered into between us. Mrs. Sawyer is very profane and the only indecent language used was statements made by her and from her conversation it appears that it is impossible for her to express herself in any other manner. During the time I interviewed Mrs. Sawyer she did not indicate that she desired the services of an attorney or the services of a physician or surgeon. She did advise me, however, that she had received an operation at the Midway Hospital in Saint Paul, Minnesota during July, 1934 and that she had been discharged from the hospital as cured.

At no time during the period I remained in Chicago did any unpleasantness enter into the interview with Mrs. Sawyer and the passing statements she made to and received from other employees were those ordinary in the natural course of business and she was mistreated in no manner whatever. While I was in the presence of Mrs. Sawyer I did not see anyone with a firearm of any kind, or hear any reference made to firearms.

I did not, of course, interview Wynona Madette or Paula Harmon, however, I did see them from time to time in the different offices at the above mentioned address. There was absolutely nothing whatever occurred during these instances to indicate to me that they were being mistreated in any manner and I am thoroughly convinced that they were not mistreated.

To Whom It May Concern:

7/1/35

I regret that I do not recall the exact dates I was in Chicago, however, I do recall that it was during the first half of September, 1934 and as I recall, I was in Chicago on the 11th of September. If more definite information is desired my expense account for the month of September, 1934 will reflect the day and hour I left Saint Paul and arrived in Chicago, as well as the date of my departure from Chicago. The trip was made by airplane and I was not in Chicago but once during September, which was the occasion in question.

Very truly yours,

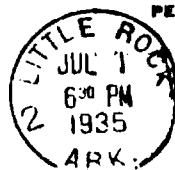
*R. C. Cauter*  
R. C. CAUTER, Special Agent

RCO:dan

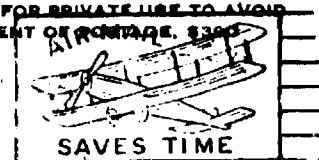
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Little Rock, Ark.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



Mr. Harold Nathan,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at Ninth Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Box #1987,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

July 2, 1935.

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Scheidt .....  
Mr. Schick .....  
Mr. Smith .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

Mr. Harold Nathan  
Assistant Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find the memorandum which you spoke about in our conversation over the telephone. I am not sure as to the dates and as to how many days I guarded these women, but, of course, can refresh my memory from the files in the Chicago Office, if the occasion arises.

There are other insignificant details, such as conversations and happenings which took place during the stay of these three women in the Chicago Office, which I did not consider relevant to the point involved.

If I can be of further service in this connection, please notify me at once.

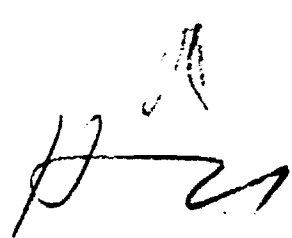
Very truly yours,



G. C. Woltz,  
Special Agent.

GCW/MMM

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Pittsburgh, Pa.,  
July 2, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR. HAROLD NATHAN:

Pursuant to instructions as outlined in telephone conversation of July 1, 1935, I submit the following memorandum of facts which I will testify to at any time I am called upon to do so.

On or about September 9, 1934 and the days immediately thereafter, I was a Special Agent of the Division of Investigation, United States Department of Justice and was assigned to the Chicago, Illinois Office.

I, along with several other special agents, went to the airport just out of Chicago, for the purpose of meeting an airplane which was bringing to Chicago, the following persons: Winona Burdette, Gladys Sawyer, and Paula Harmon, who were accompanied by Special Agents of the Division of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

When the airplane reached Chicago the said Winona Burdette, Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon were escorted in three automobiles to the Chicago Office, where they remained some time, voluntarily.

I had occasion to observe all three women and talked with each of them from time to time. At first I inquired as to how they felt, to which each replied with statements that they felt very good, or fine, and similar statements thereto. Gladys Sawyer and Winona Burdette both agreed that they enjoyed their airplane ride and liked it very much, at the same time claiming that it was the best way to travel and that it was much better than a train. I observed very closely, Winona Burdette, Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon, and all three seemed to be very happy and from appearances, were in the best of health and spirit. None of these women had any visible marks or bruises and they did not look to be fatigued in any way but rather appeared to be rested and looked as though they had had plenty of sleep, and from their conversation, I judged they were glad to be in Chicago.

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While Winona Burdette, Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon were staying in Chicago on this trip, I was in their presence at different times, both day and night, for several days and I had occasion to observe these women continually for periods ranging from eight to ten hours and I now state that each slept soundly and had regular meals, which they ate heartily; that all three were afforded comfortable places to sleep, and were not molested by anyone. They were given good, wholesome food whenever they desired same, and as much as they wanted, three times a day. I further state that from time to time, on different occasions, between meal times, I bought sandwiches, milk, and coffee for Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon.

At times when I was with these three women there was a matron present and these women were permitted to use a wash-room and to visit a ladies' toilet whenever they desired. No cruel treatment, harsh words, threats, unpleasant acts or gestures were used by anyone at any time, and the three women were permitted to sleep, eat and rest as each desired.

At no time were there any guns displayed by agents and none of these women were questioned by agents, or anyone else, that I heard, except to inquire as to their welfare and possibly to carry on a general conversation. I talked with these women from time to time about topics of the day, childhood experiences and general conversations and on one occasion was subjected to a boresome detailed description by Gladys Sawyer, of an operation which she had had performed at some previous time.

Another thing, I recall, which added to the enjoyment of these women's stay in Chicago, was the bringing to the office of a small girl, aged about five years, who was either a daughter or an adopted daughter of one of the women. The little girl was allowed free range of the office and was permitted to play and visit with the women and this agent, on occasions, was asked to assume the role of nurse-maid to this small girl, much to the amusement of the three women, above named.

In short, judging from looks, appearances and actions, I can state that these women experienced no ill treatment or any unpleasantness at the hands of anyone, during the period of time

referred to and that, on the other hand, it was pleasant and enjoyable to all three.

Respectfully submitted,



G. C. Woltz,  
Special Agent.

GCW/MMM

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**P. O. Box #1987,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.**



**3-PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO  
AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300**

**Mr. Harold Nathan,  
Assistant Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.**

Detroit, Michigan  
July 2, 1935

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. Harold Nathan, Assistant Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice

Re: Accusations Against the Chicago Office  
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The writer, during the month of September, 1934, was assigned, as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to the Chicago Bureau Office.

In the early part of September, Paula Harmon, Wynona Burdette and Gladys Sawyer were brought to the Chicago Bureau Office, 1900 Bankers' Building, Chicago, Illinois, from Cleveland, Ohio, and were detained at the Chicago Bureau Office for a few days, the exact number of which the writer does not recall.

While these women were detained at the Chicago Office, the writer was assigned to guard Paula Harmon, who was kept in a small office in the rear of the main office. In this small office there was a cot with bed clothing on it, on which Paula Harmon slept. The writer guarded Paula Harmon two nights as did also a matron, Miss Dorothy Horney. At no time during the detention of the three women did the writer see any of the women except Paula Harmon.

During the time Paula Harmon was guarded by the writer, she was accorded the most courteous treatment by the writer and Miss Horney, the matron. Anything she requested in the line of food, cigarettes and sundry articles was brought to her. At no time did Paula Harmon request an attorney nor did she at any time request any medical attention while she was guarded by the writer.

Paula Harmon was an abusive person, using abusive language. She slept on the cot in a nude state and when she desired to go to the bathroom, she would arise from the cot in her naked state, with utter disregard for the presence of anyone else, and would be taken to the bathroom by the matron, Miss Horney.

After a few days, the three women were taken to an apartment located in an apartment building in the 4100-block of Sheridan Road, the number of which the writer recalls as being 4121 Sheridan Road. This apartment consisted of a large living room, having therein a Murphy double bed and a divan; a small bedroom containing a double bed; a bathroom and a small kitchenette.

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The writer, together with former Special Agent T. J. Connor and Dorothy Horney, the matron, were assigned to guard the three women during the time they were detained at the apartment. The hours on duty of the writer were from nine o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the evening. While assigned to this guard duty, the writer together with former Special Agent Connor and Miss Horney prepared and served to the three women three meals a day and before the preparation of these meals, the three women were specifically asked as to their wishes in the matter of food. Anything in the line of food which they requested was purchased for them and served to them. Also purchased for them were cigarettes, toilet articles and during the time they were detained at the apartment, Gladys Sawyer specifically requested that some ovarian tablets be purchased for her. Former Special Agent Connor purchased some of these tablets but Gladys Sawyer stated they were not the kind she had been accustomed to using. The tablets were returned to the drug store by former Special Agent Connor and the kind requested by Gladys Sawyer were procured, which she used. There was also purchased for her a quantity of sodium amytal tablets, of which Gladys Sawyer took approximately a dozen each day. She informed the writer that she had been accustomed to the use of that number for several years. At no time did the three women aid in the preparation of meals or in the cleaning up of the apartment, this work being performed by the writer, Miss Horney and former Special Agent Connor.

During the time spent with these women, much obscene language and many obscene stories were told by them. During the course of meals, Wynona Burdette's favorite expression was "Laugh I thought I'd ~~laugh~~." She had the filthy habit of belching as did Gladys Sawyer, they purposely attempting to do this. Obscene stories were told by Wynona Burdette which led Gladys Sawyer to remember some of her choice ones which she related with keen delight.

At no time did Gladys Sawyer request an attorney and at no time did she request any medical attention excepting to request the ovarian and sodium amytal tablets. Gladys Sawyer was in the habit of drinking between 15 and 20 cups of black coffee each day and would intermingle the coffee with the taking of sodium amytal tablets.

During their detention at this apartment, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdette slept in the double Murphy bed and Paula Harmon slept on the divan in the living room. When the writer appeared for duty in the morning at 9 A.M., Gladys Sawyer was usually still sleeping and did not arise until approximately ten or eleven o'clock, at which time breakfast would be served to her and to the other two women. Luncheon would be served about 1:30 to 2:00 and dinner usually at six o'clock. They were at liberty at all times to partake of any of the food stored in the refrigerator in the kitchenette and were allowed their liberty about the apartment.

At no time did the writer point a pistol at any one of the three women when they were going to the bathroom. Each time any one of the women went to the bathroom, the matron, Miss Horney, and only Miss Horney, accompanied the women.

At no time were Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdette or Paula Harmon questioned by the writer and at no time were abusive epithets hurled at the women. The only request made of them by the writer was that they bathe themselves, it being thought by Wynona Burdette and Gladys Sawyer that Paula Harmon was possessed of body lice. For the protection of all the occupants of the apartment, the writer requested all three women to bathe, which request was not complied with.

At no time was there any undue display of firearms by the writer, it being the writer's procedure upon arriving for duty at the apartment to empty his pistol, keeping the cartridges in his pocket and to hide the pistol in the bedroom in a place unknown to the three women and to get the pistol when going off duty. At no time was this pistol or any pistol displayed promiscuously in the presence of the three women.

During the course of the days spent with the three women, card games were played by Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdette and Paula Harmon. On a few occasions, the writer and former Special Agent Connor as well as Miss Horney joined in the playing of card games and on several occasions the writer played cards with Gladys Sawyer alone. While playing cards with Gladys Sawyer, she mentioned the fact that she, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdette had an opportunity to throw former Special Agent in Charge Larson out of a hotel window in Cleveland and that they would have done so were it not for the fact that they thought Agents were stationed outside the hotel room. It was therefore deemed advisable by the writer to take precautions to avoid anything like that happening and the women were kept under surveillance all the time they were in the apartment excepting at times when they went to the bathroom when Miss Horney, the matron would accompany them. At all times the matron was in the presence of the women, she being on duty the same hours as the writer and former Special Agent Connor, from nine o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the evening.

During the course of their stay in the apartment, Gladys Sawyer's chief worry was whether or not the attorney in Cleveland to whom she had given a large sum of money as well as some jewelry and other personal belongings would "gyp" her of same. Aside from that, she appeared to be well satisfied with her quarters and at no time expressed displeasure about same but even congratulated the writer, Miss Horney and former Special Agent Connor on their cooking ability,

stating that she was being well fed and food which she liked was prepared for her.

As to the obscene stories, Wynona Burdette was the chief offender in telling them and the writer would judge that Gladys Sawyer was almost on a par with Wynona in telling such stories.

It is true that on one night and on only one night the writer indulged in a small poker game with several other Agents at the apartment, which game lasted from nine o'clock in the evening until about 11:30 and no later than 11:30 and in which game Gladys Sawyer took particular interest, sitting around the table on which the game was played and more or less acting as a kibitzer. This was the only poker game played by the Agents and Gladys Sawyer expressed the desire to participate in the game except for the fact that she did not have the necessary small amount of money with which to play. All the other card games indulged in were played for pastime and Gladys Sawyer participated in many of them, she particularly liking to play cards.

The writer again reiterates that at no time did he point a pistol at any of the three women nor did he promiscuously display his gun and at no time did he use obscene language in the presence of these women, any obscene language used being that spoken by the three women of which the chief offenders were Wynona Burdette and Gladys Sawyer.

The charges made by Gladys Sawyer are a surprise to the writer as he was under the impression, from statements made by Gladys Sawyer, that they were particularly well treated while detained in the apartment on Sheridan Road. As to the treatment received during the period of time the writer was not present, the writer has no knowledge of this but is of the opinion that the same treatment was accorded them, in view of the fact that at no time did any of the three women mention that they were being mistreated or were not being accorded the most courteous treatment. At no time did the writer witness any of the three women being beaten or struck in any way. They were never threatened by the writer nor were any obscene epithets hurled at them and the writer does not know if Gladys Sawyer was administered any drug which she calls "truth serum."

While detained at the apartment, Gladys Sawyer frequently told the writer that she was through drinking, in spite of the fact that she had been a heavy drinker in the past, because her arrest in Cleveland was caused by the fact that she and Paula Harmon had gotten "stiff" in a barroom in a Cleveland hotel. She made the remark that they would never have been caught if it had not been for the fact that they got so drunk and created such a disturbance that the police were called.

*A. A. Muzzey*

A. A. Muzzey, Special Agent.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HAROLD NATHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

July 1, 1935.

During September, 1934, I recall the occasion when Mrs. Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdette and Paula Harmon were in custody of this Bureau at the Chicago Bureau Office. On several occasions I was called upon by Inspector S.P. Cowley, to attend to each of these women during the time when the matron on duty was occupied with one of the women. I distinctly recall accompanying Paula Harmon to the washroom on several occasions during the hours that I was on duty, approximately from nine o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the evening, or sometimes during the evening when I was at the office completing my work. On every occasion that I was in the conference room where Paula Harmon was being held, I observed her lying on a cot which had been provided for her. I also observed cots in conference rooms where Mrs. Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdette were being held. I further state that there are adequate sanitary facilities in the Chicago Bureau Office for women. Mrs. Gladys Sawyer on several occasions even refused to wash her face.

At no time did I hear the Agents use abusive language or use third degree methods on any of these women, but I did hear the women make numerous vulgar expressions while I was attending them.

*Helen Dunkel*  
HELEN DUNKEL  
CHIEF CLERK

*[Handwritten initials]*



July 1, 1935  
Chicago, Illinois.

This statement is in regard to a letter submitted to his Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt, regarding one MRS. GLADYS RITA SAWYER, whose surname is SANDLOVICH, and signed by Eugene D. O'Sullivan of the firm of O'Sullivan and Southard, attorneys and counselors of Omaha, Nebraska.

I make this statement voluntarily and of my own free will, and to clear myself of any of the accusations made by the said Mrs. Sawyer.

During September 1934 I was employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice at Chicago, Illinois, but have since resigned and become affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System at Chicago, Illinois.

It so happened that while employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation I was assigned as one of the Agents who guarded the said Mrs. Sawyer, one Paula Harmon alias Matterson, and one Wynona Burdett. During the period they were confined at Chicago, both in the Bureau office and an apartment at approximately 4100 Sheridan Road, Chicago, to my recollection I was with or in the presence of these three individuals approximately twelve hours of each day, at times doing guard duty at night and other times during the day. I hereby state that at no time did any of the three ask for an attorney or request medical attention; at no time in my presence was any of the three beaten or struck in any manner, neither was there any obscene language used by any Agents in addressing them. At no time were these women left without a matron. As for the obscene stories mentioned, may I assure you that during this period, and through the above mentioned three women, I have added some choice bits to my not too complete at that time repertoire. Regarding the display of firearms by the Agents, may I state that this was not done deliberately but only in the course of being armed while guarding prisoners, which I believe is and was at that time permissible. At no time did any Agent in my presence apply epithets or threats to the prisoners. There was a cot available for Paula Harmon the first night, and on the following day cots were made available for Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer.

These charges made by Gladys Sawyer appear as a complete surprise to me as I was under the impression at the time that they were being particularly well treated, a fact which was confirmed by the three prisoners themselves.

JK  
HJ

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As to what might have happened during the period of time I was not present with these women I do not know, but I am certain that the treatment they received during said period of time was not different than I have already mentioned. In closing I wish to state also that during the period these women were held, to my knowledge they were never placed under the influence of drugs by any member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other person connected with the case.

*Al. Schuss*

AL SCHUSS

July 1, 1936.  
Chicago, Illinois.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN.

During September of 1934 at the time Wynona Burdett, Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon were held in custody I was assigned on one occasion to be present in a room during one of the periods in which Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer were permitted to visit each other. This period lasted for about one hour.

I did not at any time use any abusive language to these women or tell obscene stories, in fact I did not even converse with them. I knew that these women were being held in the Chicago Bureau office but do not know for how long a period, and at no time did I hear any Agent of the Bureau use abusive language, make threats or apply any other "third degree" methods. At the time I was assigned to this duty I recall that I performed said duty in the room assigned to Gladys Sawyer and that it did contain a bed. To the best of my recollection the time as set out above is all that I spent in connection with these women.

Respectfully submitted,

*M. Chaffetz*

M. CHAFFETZ,  
Special Agent.

HC:JMS

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July 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN

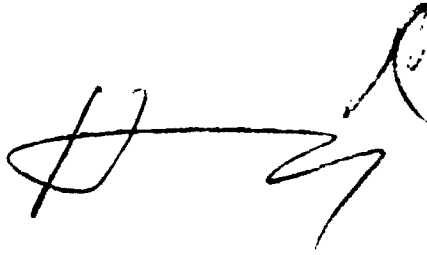
During the time that Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett were held in custody at the Chicago Bureau office in September of 1934, I had occasion to work later than usual one evening typing a statement which was given by Paula Harmon. I recall on one occasion during the course of the evening I left the stenographers' room and proceeded to the section of the office where the girls were being held. At this time I heard a woman, whom I knew to be Gladys Sawyer having heard her voice on previous occasions, speaking in a very loud tone and using vile and indecent language which was evidently directed at an Agent who was attempting to interview her. She at this time indulged in considerable cursing and swearing, but at no time did I hear the Agent's voice raised to an unusual tone nor did I hear him use any abusive or offensive language whatsoever.

I also observed Paula Harmon behave in a most disgusting manner at a time when I accompanied Special Agents R. D. Brown and R. C. Suran to the apartment on Sheridan Road where these women were then located, for the purpose of taking a statement from Paula Harmon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Gray*  
MARY GRAY,  
Stenographer.

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July 1, 1935.  
Chicago, Illinois.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN.

This is to advise that during September, 1934 at the time Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdett and Paula Harmon were being held in the Chicago Bureau office, I was requested by Special Agent R. D. Brown on one occasion, about noon-time to the best of my recollection, to go into the room occupied by Paula Harmon to see that she dressed herself properly.

I entered the room and found that Paula Harmon had completely removed her clothing, and was seated on a cot with the sheet partly covering her. I asked her to put on her clothes but she hesitated and seemed extremely reluctant to do so. I finally persuaded her, after considerable effort, to get up and put on her clothes.

I observed the above mentioned women in the Chicago office from time to time, but at no time did I hear any Agents use abusive language toward these women, nor did I ever hear of any "third degree" methods being employed by anyone in the office.

Respectfully submitted,

*Josephine Sbarboro*

Josephine Sbarboro

Stenographer.

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*H N*

July 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN

On the morning of September 10, 1934, I was assigned by Inspector S. P. Cowley to interview Mrs. Gladys Sawyer, who was at that time in custody of this Bureau.

The first time I saw Gladys Sawyer she was sitting in one of the conference rooms in the Chicago Bureau office. I began my interview with Gladys Sawyer and from the outset of this interview she used vulgar and indecent expressions. Immediately upon entering the room where Gladys Sawyer was sitting I made an examination of the desk in that room, as per standing instructions by Inspector S. P. Cowley, to ascertain if anything was contained therein of a confidential nature or if there were any firearms or weapons with which a subject might injure himself. In the drawer of this desk I did in fact find a revolver which belonged to some Agent whose identity I do not at this time recall. I took this gun from the room and it is my present recollection that I turned it over to Inspector Cowley. I made no threats to Gladys Sawyer with this gun, neither did I indulge in any "dry shooting" nor did I handle this gun in any sort of a careless manner.

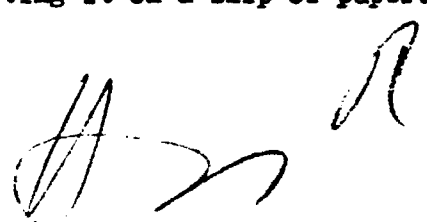
During the first night that Wynona Burdett, Gladys Sawyer and Paula Harmon were held at the Chicago Bureau office, there was only one cot available, which cot was used by Paula Harmon. However, on the following day Inspector Cowley made appropriate arrangements to secure additional cots and Gladys Sawyer was permitted to use one the following day.

Two matrons were on duty during the time that these women were in custody, these matrons being Mrs. Monahan and Dorothy Horney, one matron taking the night shift and one the day shift. These matrons attended to the needs of the women, accompanying them to the toilets when necessary, which toilets were amply provided for in the Chicago Bureau office.

During the course of my interview with Gladys Sawyer she advised me of a recent operation she had had performed upon her in St. Paul, Minnesota, and requested that she be furnished with medicine which had been prescribed for her by a St. Paul doctor. She provided the name of this medicine, which was in tablet form, writing it on a slip of paper. The name

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of this medicine I do not now recall, but upon instructions of Inspector Cowley I proceeded to the drug store located at the corner of State and Adams Streets, Chicago, and obtained the requested remedy after which I returned to the Chicago Bureau office and turned the same over to Mrs. Sawyer. She took some of this medicine, the quantity of which I do not know, and the entire bottle of the tablets was turned over to her and I believe she kept them in her personal possession from that time on.

Mrs. Sawyer did not ask for an attorney, but advised that at the time of her arrest in Cleveland on September 5, 1934, she had concealed on her person three \$500 and seven \$100 bills, one solitaire diamond ring, one double solitaire diamond ring, one pair diamond ear screws and one unmounted diamond. She stated that she met an attorney, Ed Stanton, at the jail while she was confined therein in Cleveland, Ohio, and had requested him to take care of the property for her and for Stanton to try and reach Harry Sawyer and to have him inform the gang to "beat it". The principal worry on Gladys Sawyer's mind at that time was the amount of the fee that Stanton would charge for his services and whether she would be able to secure the return of her property. She requested that this attorney be contacted in connection with the property and I believe that he was so contacted by Agents of the Detroit Bureau office. She did not request an attorney at Chicago, Illinois, but on the other hand expressed fear that someone would learn that she was in Chicago and assisting the Government in connection with the Bremer kidnaping case.

I did not relate any obscene stories to Gladys Sawyer at any time and heard no such stories related to her. Neither did I apply any third degree methods of any description to Gladys Sawyer, nor did I see any abuse accorded Wynona Burdett or Paula Harmon, and at no time did I have knowledge of any drug being administered to her. The only medicine which was given to Gladys Sawyer or taken by her was that previously referred to, which she requested and took voluntarily, advising that it was medicine which had been prescribed for by a doctor in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gladys Sawyer was fed regularly while in the Chicago Bureau office, the food being purchased from the two restaurants now located in the building, namely Thompson's and De Met's restaurant.

Special Agent R. C. Coulter came from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Chicago, Illinois, on or about September 11, 1934, and assisted in the interviewing of Gladys Sawyer, and at no time did Agent Coulter make any threats to Gladys Sawyer, use abusive language or tell obscene stories, but

on the other hand, Gladys was very vulgar in her remarks and expressions and it was with some difficulty that we prevented embarrassment to the stenographers of the Chicago Bureau office.

I do not recall the date that Gladys, Wynona Burdett and Paula Harmon were removed from the Chicago Bureau office to an apartment on Sheridan Road, but I did visit this apartment with Inspector Cowley and Special Agent R. D. Brown on two or three occasions but only for a short period of time. At this apartment there was always a matron in attendance and the appropriate sanitary facilities were provided, together with appropriate food. I definitely recall on one occasion that Gladys Sawyer prepared quite an elaborate meal for herself and the other girls of food which had been provided by the Agents of this Bureau.

At the time the girls were released from custody I was in Detroit, Michigan, on another matter, but there is at the present time no property belonging to Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdett or Paula Harmon in possession of the Chicago Bureau office.

Recently while I was in St. Paul, Minnesota, in connection with the Bremer kidnaping trial, I entered the office of Special Agent in Charge Andersen and found Gladys Sawyer was therein. She immediately became abusive to me in the presence of Special Agent in Charge Andersen, but did state that after her release at Chicago, Illinois, she returned to Cleveland, Ohio, and secured all of her property from attorney Stanton but that he had charged her a \$500 fee for services rendered.

Wynona Burdett and Paula Harmon also frequently used vulgar and indecent expressions and cursed considerably. While I at no time interviewed Wynona Burdett or Paula Harmon, I had occasion to visit the room in which they were confined a few times and I know to my own knowledge that such language was used. In fact it took a good deal of persuasion from time to time to induce Paula Harmon to remain clothed. She wanted to disrobe much to the embarrassment of the Agents, matrons and the stenographers of the Chicago Bureau office.

Respectfully submitted,

*R. C. Suran*  
R. C. SURAN,  
Special Agent.

RCS:MF



**Division of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**

Room 414  
Philadelphia Saving Fund Building,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

July 3, 1935.

Mr. Harold Nathan, Assistant Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue and Ninth St., N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

RE: GLADYS SAWYER

Dear Mr. Nathan:-

With reference to your telephonic conversation of July 2, 1935, I wish to advise that all charges made by Gladys Sawyer are untrue and, of course, unfounded.

However, to the best of my recollection, I do recall playing a little poker. As I recall the situation, I was on duty one evening until about 10:30 or 11:00 P.M., at which time I believe we played a game of cards to pass the time away, but I am certain the game did not last later than approximately 11:00 P.M.

I only recall being on duty with Gladys Sawyer, Winona Burdette and Paula Harmon on one occasion, the exact address being unknown, but it was some place in the 4500 block of Sheridan Road, Chicago, Ill. However, I had been on duty on various occasions at the office while these three women were there.

In regard to the apartment wherein it is presumed by this Agent, that the alleged charges as filed by Mrs. Sawyer occurred, this Agent emphatically recalls that at all times one of the matrons of the Chicago Office was also on duty.

In refreshing my memory, I recall that at all times after August 17, 1934, whenever a female prisoner or woman was held for questioning, there was always a matron present.

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*Handwritten signature/initials*

As far as all other charges made by Mrs. Sawyer,  
I hereby emphatically deny the truth and veracity of  
them.

Very truly yours,

*C. R. LaFrance*  
C. R. LaFRANCE,  
Special Agent.

CRL&F:BV

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 2118

Detroit - Michigan

July 3, 1935

*Delivered  
to Nathan*

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Harold Nathan,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N. W.  
Washington - D. C.

Dear Mr. Nathan:

In accordance with your request, I have prepared a detailed memorandum of the Cleveland and Lakewood, Ohio, escapade and am transmitting the original and four copies herewith. I am also enclosing the three duplicate memorandums which you left with me and which were prepared by Agents Collins, Dickstein, and Hopton.

I have tried my best to make a very complete picture of the entire affair and in the event I can be of any further assistance to the Bureau, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

I enjoyed your visit the other day and sincerely trust that you will be in Detroit again in the near future, at which time we will take "the new model" out for a little ride.

Sincerely yours,

*Wm. Larson*  
Wm. Larson

WL:JJK  
Enc.

*AM*

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Detroit, Michigan  
July 3, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HAROLD NATHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

RE: Reply to accusations made against  
Bureau Agents by Gladys Sawyer,  
wife of Harry Sawyer

Following the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer at St. Paul in January, 1934, several angles developed in the Detroit district requiring considerable investigation with a view to locating and apprehending the perpetrators of this offense. As Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Bureau Office I supervised the work performed by the Agents in this district.

On the morning of September 7, 1934, I received a telephone call from Special Agent W. E. Peters at Cleveland, Ohio, informing me that three women, giving their names as Ethel Matterson, Gladys Sawyer, and Wynona Walcott, on the evening of September 5, 1934, were arrested by the Cleveland Police in the barroom of the Cleveland Hotel where they were causing a disturbance during a drinking party. The police-woman who was called to the hotel found the three women too tough to handle and it was necessary for her to call policemen to the scene to assist her in making the arrest.

No particular significance was attached to this arrest until the end of the following day, September 6, when Captain Frank Story of the Cleveland Police called Agent Peters at the Federal Building, stating that they had three women in custody who might be connected with some mob, whereupon Agent Peters proceeded to the Police Department, and it was subsequent to this visit that he called the office and it was then determined that the correct names of the three women were Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett, known associates of the Barker-Karpis gang.

I proceeded to Cleveland and conferred with Inspector C. W. Cody and Captain Frank Story of the Cleveland Police, requesting the

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release of the three women to this Bureau as it was felt that they could undoubtedly be charged with harboring the fugitives. It was also felt necessary to remove the women from the Cleveland City Jail to some place where they could be properly interrogated. This action was taken when it was learned that there were several newspaper reporters in the police building, and also there appeared to be no desirable place where they could individually be interviewed.

The police officials agreed to release the three women to me and also upon my request transported them to the Federal Building in Cleveland. When it was found that the newspaper representatives sensed the fact that the women had been taken to the Federal Building, further plans were entered into to remove the women to some other spot where we could interrogate them without being disturbed. I was informed by officials of the Lakewood Police Department that they had suitable space, and the three women were taken to that point.

It is my recollection that we arrived in Lakewood about 11:30 P. M. and I immediately began interrogating the three women, one at a time, and during this period Donaldson and Dickstein guarded two of the women in an adjoining room, convenient to a lavatory. During the course of these interviews all three of the women voiced their complete approval of spending their time in these quarters rather than staying in the cells in the Cleveland Police Department. They were told that if they so desired they could occupy the women's cells in the Lakewood Police Station, but they stated that they had had sufficient such confinement.

During their stay at Lakewood they were treated with respect and properly interrogated in every sense. The Agents who were guarding the women saw to it that they were furnished plenty of food.

On the following day, September 8th, Saturday, the late Inspector Cowley arrived in Cleveland from Chicago, and after a conference with him it was deemed desirable to determine if the three women would voluntarily consent to go to Chicago. At this time Paula Harmon had admitted that it was Fred Barker with whom she was living at 4419 171st Street, Cleveland, and Gladys Sawyer was living at the same address with her husband who was also a fugitive, Harry Sawyer, and their five year old adopted child, and it was felt that in view of their apparent desire to assist the Government that they could be of material help in Chicago in identifying the many photographs on file there and also in an attempt to locate the hideout which up to that time had not been discovered.

I confronted the three women with the proposition of going to Chicago and they all readily agreed to do so. In view of this consent Mr. Cowley made arrangements for airplane service and the plans were to leave on the Saturday evening of September 8th. We prepared waivers for the three women which were signed by Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer. Paula Harmon upon being presented with a waiver declined to sign same, which change of attitude was not uncommon with her peculiar characteristic. I recall distinctly at this time that Gladys Sawyer attempted to persuade Paula Harmon to sign the waiver, but without success.

At this particular time Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett stated that they were desirous of going to Chicago in order to get out of Cleveland, and, as they put it, "to get away from the gang". About this time Mr. Cowley called me advising that the flying conditions would not permit the plane to take off that night and that the trip would be cancelled until Sunday, and at that time we would further discuss the matter with Paula Harmon to determine whether she would consent to go. If not, it was our plans to leave her in Cleveland and to proceed with the other two women to Chicago. At no time during the interviews with the women at the Lakewood Police Department did any one of them ask for an attorney.

When the word came through that the trip was definitely cancelled for Saturday evening, I made inquiries at the Police Department about furnishing lodging for the women during the night, however all three of them stated that they were very desirous of staying in the quarters where they had been kept during the interviews rather than stay in the cells. Subsequently through Special Agent W. E. Peters we made arrangements to place the three women in two very comfortable rooms in the Riverside Hotel on Detroit Street, Lakewood, Ohio, and Special Agents Collins and Hopton were left at the hotel to guard the women. Prior to their departure from the Lakewood Police Department to the Riverside Hotel, Paula Harmon consented that she would be glad to go to Chicago with the other two women on Sunday morning.

Mr. Cowley and myself and Agents Socey, Peters, and Dickstein proceeded to our hotels in Cleveland where we spent the night, and on Sunday morning Agent Dickstein and Mr. Cowley proceeded directly from the hotel to the Cleveland airport to make the necessary arrangements for transportation to Chicago, and Agents Peters, Socey, and myself appeared at the Riverside Hotel at about 9:00 A. M. Sunday

morning, September 9, and much to our surprise we learned that all three women had changed their minds about going to Chicago.

I talked to them advising them that they would not be taken to Chicago unless they desired to go, and about this time Paula Harmon began screaming at the top of her voice and approached the hotel room window facing the street and began hollering at the pedestrians. Immediately following this outburst, the other two women duplicated the act and I put forth all possible efforts in trying to have them become quiet.

While I was in the room attempting to explain to them that in view of their attitude the trip to Chicago had definitely been cancelled and that they were to remain in Cleveland, Paula Harmon stated that she wanted to talk to her lawyer. She was the only one who made this request, neither Gladys Sawyer nor Wynona Burdett asked for an attorney.

I promptly told Paula Harmon that we would call her attorney at once if she would furnish his name and that she would have an opportunity to talk with him, however, it was practically impossible to talk to these women in view of their outbursts which continued for at least two minutes.

During the course of this demonstration Gladys Sawyer made the remark to me that she had not seen any of the badges belonging to the Agents. She made some mention to the effect that all badges have a number and I informed her that there were no numbers on our badges assuming that she was referring to numbers similar to those appearing on police badges. Feeling that it would be well to exhibit a badge to her, I called upon Agent Feters who handed me his badge and which was exhibited to Gladys Sawyer. She looked at it very closely and quickly grabbed it out of my hand, finally she turned it over, at which time she saw the small identification number, and then returned the badge to me with the remarks, "You are a God damn liar".

During the course of this outburst Gladys Sawyer was extremely profane in her language, so much so that the pedestrians on the street who heard the yells drew the conclusion that the women were intoxicated. The people on the street of course did not have an opportunity to see the three women but the language used by Gladys Sawyer was such that any person would think that she was drunk.

While I was in the room talking to the three women, Paula Harmon walked toward the window and as I feared that she might have intentions of jumping out, I quickly approached the window at which time I observed Gladys Sawyer with a wild look in her face and using vile

language come toward me and when she got a few feet away she stopped and continued her demonstration of profanity. I might here state that Gladys Sawyer was doing practically all the talking, the other two women, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett, were yelling at the top of their voices. Gladys Sawyer later told me upon our arrival in Chicago that it was her intention to throw me out of the window when she started approaching me in the room.

When it was realized that every effort had been made to stop the women from hollering without success, I instructed the Agents to call the Lakewood Police. Lieutenant C. Baum of the Lakewood Police Department with two or three other officers arrived at the hotel and when the three women began beating them off they were escorted to the patrol wagon and placed under arrest on a charge of disorderly conduct. They were taken immediately to the Lakewood Police Station where they were booked as prisoners in the women's detention quarters.

A short time later I arrived at the police station and all three of the women immediately requested me to come to their cells as they wanted to talk to me. They then apologized for their actions at the hotel and told me that they were very desirous of boarding the plane and leaving immediately for Chicago. I told them that I was afraid that they were going to attempt to stage another demonstration when we got them out on the street in an automobile and in view of that we had definitely decided to have them remain in Cleveland. They continued to state that they were very regretful of what had taken place and assured me that under no consideration would they duplicate such a scene. I finally told them that if it was their desire to go to Chicago that it would be necessary for them to sign a waiver stating that they desired to voluntarily go. Without hesitation they agreed to do so, and as I recall Gladys Sawyer took the initiative in expressing the desire at wanting to go to Chicago.

A new waiver was then immediately drawn up which waiver it will be noted was dated on that date Sunday, September 9, and was signed by all three of the women in the presence of the Agents listed in this memorandum with the exception of Mr. Cowley and Mr. Dickstein. Lt. C. Baum of the Lakewood Police Department was also present when this waiver was signed and was present when all three of the women stated that they wanted to go to Chicago.

Following the signing of the waiver, I consulted Lt. Baum about the matter and he consented to release the three women to me.



It will be noted that such action was necessary in view of the fact that they had been arrested by the Lakewood Police on a charge of disorderly conduct in view of their actions at the Riverside Hotel, which was clearly an offense under the Ohio statute. Lt. Baum then stated that in view of the arrest by the police, it would be necessary for the women to sign a police department release which action is customary in such cases where persons are arrested without prosecution in order to relieve the police department of a possible case of false arrest. As I recall this release indicates that the person committed the offense charged.

Gladys Sawyer was the first one to sign this release, Wynona Burdett was next and the release was given to Paula Harmon. She read it over carefully and stated that there were a few words which she did not exactly like. At this point Gladys Sawyer became very impatient with Paula Harmon and said, "The first thing you know you'll get us in some more trouble", and requested her to sign it immediately, which she subsequently did. All three women seemed to be happy over the fact that they were going to Chicago and were immediately transported to the airport via a police automobile.

Upon our arrival at Chicago, the three women were immediately taken to the Bankers Building where they were further interviewed and upon my departure from the building that night Gladys Sawyer again apologized for her actions at the Riverside Hotel at Lakewood, and at that time she informed me that she foolishly had conceived the idea of wanting to throw me out of the window. She seemed to take the matter as a joke and there was every indication that she was thoroughly contented.

I desire here to state that when I came into the Police Station at Lakewood, Ohio, after the three women had been arrested at the Riverside Hotel and at which time they all indicated that they wanted to go to Chicago, I informed Paula Harmon as well as the others as I have previously stated, that we had planned to cancel the trip to Chicago and keep them in Cleveland, and I also informed Paula Harmon at that time that we were going to comply with her request to get the attorney which she had been calling for at the hotel. She then personally told me that she was not further interested in the attorney as she had definitely made up her mind to proceed to Chicago.

Following the arrest of the three women at the Cleveland Hotel by the Cleveland Police, it was learned by the police that they had been residing at 4419 171 St and 3973 W. 140th Street. These two places were raided by the Cleveland Police and is shown in report of Special Agent D. E. Hall dated 9/25/34. These two houses were in the hands of the Cleveland Police for several days and as I recall it, it was about September 11 or 12 when the Cleveland Police turned over the keys for these houses to Special Agent W. E. Peters, stating that they had had guards at the houses for several days and as it was felt that nothing further would develop it was deemed advisable to turn the keys over to this Bureau.

It should be noted in the above report referred to that an inventory of all of the clothing and other items in the houses were immediately taken. Copies of these inventories were furnished to the Cleveland Police.

I have noted in the statement made by Gladys Sawyer that certain things were missing when she returned to Cleveland from Chicago, and I desire here to state that nothing with the exception of papers in the form of exhibits was taken away from either one of the houses by Agents of this Bureau. The inventories taken will reflect all the articles in the houses when the Agents took possession of same and in the event Mrs. Sawyer finds anything missing on this inventory she can be informed that same was not in the houses when the keys were turned over to Special Agent Peters by the Cleveland Police Department.

On September 10, 1934, Special Agent Peters at Cleveland developed the information that Wynona Burdett with Harry Campbell and Doc Barker had been residing in an apartment building at 7009 Franklin Elvd., Cleveland. This apartment building is owned by Mr. J. Cullen of 7916 Franklin Elvd. We obtained the keys for the apartment from Mr. Cullen and after keeping same under surveillance for several hours we unlocked the door and raided same. At this time we found a Thompson sub-machine gun with, as I recall, 745 rounds of machine gun ammunition, two 45 Colt automatics and one .38 Colt automatic, also a 100 round machine gun drum loaded with ammunition. The above equipment was immediately dispatched to the Laboratory at Washington for examination.

An inventory of all the things in this apartment was also immediately taken. In addition to the above guns and ammunition, we seized a Ford coupe which subsequently was turned over to this office by court order.

In conclusion, I recall that during my interview with Gladys Sawyer she told me that she had been operated upon for some illness at St. Paul but at no time did she request medical attention nor did she indicate to me that she was in need of any medical attention and I would also like to say that in all of my dealings in handling prisoners during my ten years in the Bureau that I never have come in contact with even a man who used such vile and profane language as did Gladys Sawyer on Sunday morning September 9, 1934, at the Riverside Hotel, Lakewood, Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. Larson".

Wm. Larson

WL:JJK

Chicago, Illinois  
July 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. HAROLD NATHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

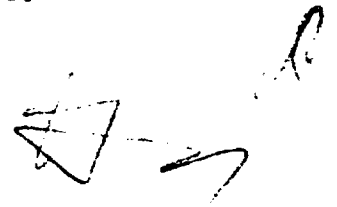
Re: Accusations against Chicago office of the  
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On June 23, 1934, the writer was assigned to the Detroit Bureau office under Special Agent in Charge William Larson. In the latter part of August 1934 this agent was on a road trip in Eastern Ohio, arriving in Cleveland, Ohio about the first of September at which time W. E. Peters was resident agent in that city. Approximately one week later a news item appeared in a Cleveland paper to the effect that three women who gave their names as Gladys Sawyer, Ethel Matterson and Wynona Walcott were arrested in the Cleveland Hotel for disorderly conduct. A day or two later the writer proceeded to Warren, Ohio to cover leads on cases that had been assigned for the road trip. This agent arrived in Warren, Ohio about 8.30 P.M. and at approximately 10 P.M. received a telephone call from Mr. William Larson at Cleveland, Ohio requesting that the writer proceed immediately to that city and meet him at the Lakewood, Ohio Police Department.

Upon arriving at the Lakewood Police Department at approximately 12.15 A.M. this agent learned from Special Agent W. E. Peters and R. B. Donaldson that Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett were in their custody and were being questioned by Special Agent in Charge William Larson. From the conversations of these agents, the writer ascertained that the above women were turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation earlier that evening which to my knowledge was September 7, 1934.

The writer did not see these women until the following day as I was requested to proceed to a hotel in order to get some rest and report to the Lakewood Police Department the following day. At approximately 8.30 A.M. on September 8, 1934 I first met Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett in the Detectives' conference room on the second floor of the Lakewood Police Department building. These women were sitting in comfortable chairs smoking cigarettes and appeared to be in very good spirits. Special Agents A. Dickstein and R. B. Donaldson were in the room at the time, also sitting in chairs. The women were not being questioned at that time. This room was light and well ventilated. Directly adjacent to the room was a clean private toilet which the women had access to at their leisure.

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The writer was in their company for about one hour on the morning of September 8, 1934, during which time these women were not disturbed. One of the agents brought their breakfast to them and furnished their brand of cigarettes.

This agent left the Lakewood Police Department on other investigative work and did not return until approximately 8 P.M. that evening. Upon my arrival at the Police station I learned from one of the agents (I am unable to recall which one), that plans were being made to carry the women to Chicago, Illinois by plane that night, and that removal waivers had been executed by each.

Information was received from the airport however, that planes were grounded and would not take off that night due to weather conditions.

It was decided, presumably by Special Agent in Charge Larson that the women would be taken to a hotel where they could rest comfortably. Accordingly they were taken to a clean and respectable hotel on Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio. They were driven to this hotel from the Lakewood Police Department about 11 P.M. September 8, 1934, in two automobiles and accompanied by Special Agents.

Special Agents J. K. Collins and the writer were instructed by Special Agent in Charge William Larson to remain at the hotel the balance of the night with the women.

Two large well ventilated rooms on the second floor of the hotel were obtained. These rooms were directly across the hall from each other and each had a double bed, with dressing tables and chairs. Paula Harmon occupied one room and Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett occupied the other room.

Agent Collins and the writer sat in a chair in the hall between the two rooms, situated such that the windows were in view. The doors were kept open. The rooms were so situated that each woman had privacy if she so desired. The women were not in view of the agents when they undressed. Their beds were only partially in view.

Paula Harmon specifically requested that the door to her room be left open as she stated that she felt more at ease to know she was not alone.

Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett went to sleep very shortly after entering their room. Paula Harmon stated that she could not go to sleep as she was nervous and expressed a fear that "some one was going to get her". She requested Special Agent Collins to sit in the room with her. Agent Collins complied with this request and about one hour later, which was about 1.30 A.M. Paula Harmon went to sleep.

Agent Collins and the writer remained in the hall during the night. I might mention that the toilet was about thirty-five feet down the hall and the women were permitted to go to this toilet unaccompanied whenever they so desired.

The following morning which would be September 9, 1934 at approximately 8 A.M. the writer secured food and cigarettes for the women. At approximately 9.45 A.M. Special Agent in Charge William Larson, Agents Peters, Donaldson and Socey arrived at the hotel. Mr. Larson conversed with the women and advised that they were planning to have them accompany several agents to Chicago, Illinois by plane, and immediately the women stated that although they had agreed the night before to go to Chicago, Illinois they had in the meantime decided to change their minds. Mr. Larson talked with them in a very gentlemanly manner and asked them if they were ready to leave the hotel.

Gladys Sawyer said that she would not leave until she saw the number on the badges of the agents. Special Agent Peters' badge was exhibited to them, after which they accused the agents of being liars. Very shortly thereafter the women began to scream and call pedestrians on the street, apparently conceiving the idea that such tactics would embarrass the agents. They became very boisterous and Mr. Larson called the Lakewood Police Department. A few minutes later several detectives from the Lakewood Police department appeared at the hotel and carried Paula Harmon to their automobile which was parked in back of the hotel. Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer walked to the car of their own volition.

At first Gladys Sawyer was very pugnacious, but after seeing that Paula Harmon was being carried to the waiting car she decided to walk. All during this time the women screamed their names. They were taken to the Lakewood Police Department where they were permitted to rest. About one hour later they were driven to the Cleveland airport by agents and detectives of the Lakewood Police Department.

At the Cleveland airport the women in company with the late Samuel Cowley, William Larson and J. K. Collins boarded a chartered plane bound for Chicago, Illinois.

I have read the accusations made by Gladys Sawyer in a letter directed to Eugene D. O'Sullivan, attorney at law, and will state that on one occasion, namely on the morning of September 9, 1934, Paula Harmon mentioned that she would like to see a friend of hers who was an attorney in Cleveland, Ohio, indicating that she had turned over to him some of her belongings. To my knowledge Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett did at no time request the services of an attorney. At no time during my presence did they ask for medical attention.

At no time during my presence were the women beaten or struck in any manner, but on the contrary were treated with respect.

To my knowledge a matron was not in attendance. No agents during my presence told obscene stories, nor did they display guns. Epithets and threats were not applied to them. To my knowledge no property was taken from the women by agents at Cleveland, Ohio.

Although I did not see the women the first night they were in the custody of Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation I heard from other agents that beds were not available at that time.

Respectfully submitted,



W. E. HOPTON,

Special Agent.

WEH:JMS

**Division of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**

Post Office Box 1887,  
Charlotte, N. C.

July 2, 1935.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NATHAN.

Re: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases,  
ET AL,  
Edward G. Bremer, Victim,  
KIDNAPING.

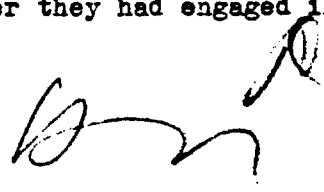
Relative to our telephonic conversation of July 1, 1935, in regard to the treatment received by Gladys Sawyer and Francine Sawyer at Cleveland, Ohio, please be advised as follows:

As all of the events covered in this memorandum transpired during the month of September, 1934, and as, at this time, I am without any notes or reports to which I can refer, I desire to advise you that I am relying entirely upon my memory, and some of the matters which may possibly be checked as to the accuracy should be verified from the Bureau file.

At about 2:00 P. M., on September 5, 1934 (?), I was advised by Captain Frank Story of the Cleveland Police Department that they had three women in custody who might possibly have some connection with the Bremer Kidnaping Case. At that time Captain Story informed me that the only thing which led him to believe that there might be some possible connection was the fact that one of the women stated she was from St. Paul, Minnesota, and one of the women had \$600.00 in her possession.

Upon proceeding to the Cleveland Police Department, I learned that Gladys Sawyer, Wynona Burdett, and Paula Harmon were under arrest, under aliases, and that they had been arrested in the cocktail room of the Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, the previous night after they had engaged in

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a fight among themselves, which was the result of their being intoxicated. The hotel management had called the Cleveland Police Department, and a policewoman had been dispatched to take the woman into custody. Upon her arrival at the Cleveland Hotel, these women entered into a fight with the policewoman and it was necessary for her to secure assistance from the officer on the beat, and it was necessary for them to call the wagon in order to remove the women to the police station. While in transit, Paula Harmon attempted to destroy and throw away everything in her possession which would give any indication of her previous address and correct name.

I proceeded to the Detention Ward of the Womens Division of the Police Station where these three women were separately interviewed by me. At that time, I displayed to them photographs of all of the known members of the Barker-Karpis Gang and talked with them as to the details of the Bremer Kidnaping Case. They denied any knowledge of any members of the gang and also denied any knowledge of the Bremer Kidnaping case except as they had read of it in the newspapers. While I was interviewing the women they sent out for some food and ate part of it during the course of the interview. I was informed that all of these women had turned over all of their valuables to the Desk Sergeant upon their arrest and that Paula Harmon had in her possession six one hundred dollar bills, together with some jewelry and sundry articles. It should be noted at this point that although the women were reported to have turned over all of their jewelry, at a later date, one of the women made a complaint that her platinum bracelet had been stolen and that she was going to enter suit against the City of Cleveland for the theft of same. She accused the policewoman who had arrested her. It was later learned from the Cleveland Police Department that a prostitute was released shortly after this woman was placed in jail and it was the belief of the police officials that, either this bracelet was turned over to this prostitute as payment to her for getting in touch with an attorney or that the bracelet was lost during the fight at the Cleveland Hotel or during the ride in the patrol wagon.

Upon my arrival at the Police Station, I noted that

an attorney by the name of Eddie Stanton, with whom I had been acquainted for a number of years, was present. He asked me the status of the case and I told him that I had no information at that time. He asked me if he could talk to the girls and I informed him that they were in the custody of the Cleveland Police Department. He asked me if we were going to take the girls into custody and I informed him that so far as I knew at that time there was no Federal charge which could be placed against them and that our investigation in the matter was at its inception. Eddie Stanton remained at the Police Station until late that evening, after which time I again saw him and he asked me the status of the case. I informed him that so far as I was aware the girls were still in the custody of the Cleveland Police Department on a charge of being drunk and disorderly and that I had no further information in the matter. He asked me if he could interview the women and I informed him that this was entirely under the jurisdiction of the Cleveland Police Department.

As this was transpiring I was negotiating from time to time with Inspector Cody and Captain Story for the release of these women into Federal custody. I had, in the meantime, communicated with the then Special Agent in Charge William Larson and advised him of the situation at Cleveland. Mr. Larson came to Cleveland and we then completed negotiations with Inspector Cody and Captain Story for the release of the women to our custody. During this time Mr. Larson and myself were in communication by long distance telephone with Inspector Cowley at Chicago. At about 11:00 P. M., on the third night that the women had been held in custody by the Cleveland Police Department, it was decided that the charge of drunk and disorderly should not be pressed against the women but that they should be turned over to us and that the Cleveland Police Department was not to be advised where they were taken because the Cleveland Police Department wanted to be able to truthfully say that they did not want to know the women were in our custody or what had become of them.

Mr. Larson and I then proceeded to Lakewood, Ohio (which is a suburb of Cleveland, completely surrounded by Cleveland) and made arrangements there with Captain Miller with whom I had had numerous favorable contacts and arranged to bring the

women to the Lakewood City Jail to hold them until proper disposition could be made of them. These arrangements having been perfected, Mr. Larson and I, accompanied by various other agents of the Detroit office proceeded to the Cleveland Police Department, where the women were turned over to us and at that time it was arranged that, with the exception of a small amount of pocket money, all money, jewelry, and property, which had been taken from the women at the time of their arrest, was to be turned over to Attorney Eddie Stanton. It should be stated at this point that to the very best of my recollection at this time Gladys Sawyer and the other women were advised that Eddie Stanton had been attempting to see them and they informed me that they did not know any attorney by the name of Eddie Stanton and did not know how he could have got into the case. They also informed me that they had no desire at that time to see Eddie Stanton, not knowing his possible connections.

Upon the women being turned over to us, they were immediately taken into the Federal Building at Cleveland. It was believed that we were being followed, the newspapers having hounded all of us for some information regarding the case, and the women were taken in one door and out the other, back into the cars and were taken to the Lakewood Police Department. Upon our arrival there, the women were taken upstairs and placed in a room having toilet facilities and a wash stand. Mr. Larson had the use of the office of the Chief of Police and he took the girls one by one into the office and interrogated them. By this time it was approximately midnight. The girls at no time were kept in confinement and although they remained in this one small room the majority of the time it was done because of the toilet facilities and because of the seating arrangement. From time to time the girls expressed desire for various and sundry articles, particularly cigarettes, and agents were dispatched to the corner drug store to supply their wants and needs. I recall that on one occasion they were advised that agents were going to the restaurant near the corner and that if any one of the girls desired anything to eat we would either return it to them or would take them to the restaurant. With the exception of Wynona Burdett, none of the girls desired anything to eat and I accompanied Wynona Burdett to the restaurant where we ordered food, but upon

the arrival of same, Wynona refused to eat (I recall that upon their return to Cleveland at a later date, Wynona informed me that the reason she refused to eat was not because she was not hungry but because of plain oneryness). I recall very definitely that all during the night they were supplied with coffee made by the members of the Lakewood Police Department and that the members of the Lakewood Police Department who were on duty at that time wandered about into the rooms where the girls were being held in custody with the exception of the Chief's office where Mr. Larson was holding interrogation. I recall that Gladys Sawyer and I entered into a contest to see who could drink the most coffee and we kidded each other upon who was going to be able to stay awake the longest. It should be stated that we had instructions from Mr. Larson not to interrogate these women relative to the Bremer case as he desired to keep all the questioning in his hands. I believe that this was in keeping with the policy of the Chicago office at that time, to wit: that not more than one agent should interview a witness as it might be possible to divulge some information not previously in possession of the witness. To the best of my recollection at this time, I know of no vulgar stories or filthy language which was used in the presence of these women during the time that they were held at the Lakewood Police Department. I do, however, recall that about three or four o'clock in the morning Paula Harmon stated that she had begun to suffer from a periodic disturbance and that she didn't give a damn whether she was in the presence of men or women, that those things were natural and that she could not do anything about it. Upon being so advised, an agent was dispatched to the corner drug store where a box of Kotex was purchased.

As I was resident agent at Cleveland at that time and as it was necessary to keep in constant touch with the Chicago office and the Bureau, I returned at about 9:00 A. M. to the Cleveland office and remained on duty there during the day.

It was our expectation to file harboring charges against the women at Cleveland, Ohio. However, after a conference by long distance it was decided that it would be more advisable to take the women to Chicago for further interrogation.

I was informed by Mr. Larson that I should make a survey of the city and secure either an apartment, a room, or a suite of rooms in a small outlying hotel. I was unsuccessful in locating an apartment but did succeed in securing reservations in a hotel which I believe is known as the Riverside Hotel, also in Lakewood, Ohio. This procedure was necessary as the women had not been able to bathe or change clothes. After I completed these negotiations I returned to the Lakewood Police Department where we entered into a long controversy with the girls as to their going to Chicago voluntarily. We prepared waivers which the girls refused to sign, insisting that they should see Mr. Purvis (At a later date Paula Harman informed me that she insisted on seeing Mr. Purvis because she thought that he was the head of the Bureau). After some time we informed the girls that we were going to take them to see Mr. Purvis and that Mr. Purvis was in Chicago, and that if they would sign voluntary waivers of removal, they would be taken to see him the following morning, after which waivers of removal were signed.

We then took the women in Bureau cars to the Riverside Hotel where they registered under (I believe) their correct names. They were given two rooms very near the bath. These rooms were at the end of the hall and the women were permitted absolute privacy with the exception of an agent being stationed in a chair at the end of the hall between the two rooms, it being insisted that the girls keep their doors at least partially open. To the best of my recollection, it was Agents Collins and Donaldson who maintained this watch. During this time Inspector Cowley had arrived from Chicago by plane and negotiations were made for the return of the women to Chicago on the following morning, to wit: Sunday. The plane was to depart for Chicago at approximately 9:00 A. M., and we arrived at the hotel at approximately 8:30 A. M., the girls having had breakfast prior to the arrival of the majority of agents. Gladys and Wynona occupied the rear room and Paula Harmon occupied the room on the street, it being on the second story. Upon our arrival at the hotel, we informed the girls that the plane was ready for Chicago and for them to pack up their things and we were ready to leave. As part of the girls clothes were in Paula's room and part in the other room, we permitted Wynona and Gladys to go into Paula's room for their clothes. At some apparently pre-arranged signal, the girls advised us that they were

not going to Chicago and when asked why, they informed us that they had merely changed their minds and were going to remain in Cleveland. Immediately upon this announcement, they were informed that they were going to Chicago whether they wanted to or not, having signed waivers of removal, and Paula thereupon made a dash to the window, it appearing as though she were going to dive out head-first. Mr. Larson was nearest her and he grabbed her around the waist to prevent her apparent leap. She succeeded in getting her head out of the window shouting: "Help, Murder, Police - Help, I'm being killed", to the passersby below, repeating these shouts, and in the meantime biting and kicking Mr. Larson. The other two women then entered into the shouting and general melee and attacked Mr. Larson, during which there was a general free-for-all fight (which is the only way I can describe it). The women bit, kicked, and fought. I recall that I grabbed Gladys Sawyer and attempted to pull her away from the general melee and suddenly found myself on the bed with the three women and two agents on top of me. At this time the Lakewood Police arrived with the wagon and the flying squad, having previously been summoned to give us an escort to the airport, and with their assistance we literally dragged the women down the hall, the women biting, scratching, kicking, and shouting all the way. From there the women were taken to the Lakewood Police Department and held long enough for everyone to regain their composure, and were immediately transported to the Cleveland Airport where their plane was waiting and they were transferred to Chicago in the custody of Inspector Cowley, Special Agent in Charge Larson, and Agent Collins.

(SEE LAST PAGE OF THIS MEMORANDUM WHICH COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO A FEMALE STENOGRAPHER).

With reference to Francine Sawyer, I was not advised that Francine Sawyer had been taken into custody until the day following that on which I was advised that the women had been taken into custody, and then I first learned of her detention through a feature story in one of the Cleveland newspapers. I verified this information through the Cleveland Police Department and was informed that she was being held in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Home. I went to the Juvenile Detention Home where I saw her and interviewed her very briefly. She supplied me with a few details of the life of Harry and

and Gladys Sawyer as well as some details about the automobiles which they drove and where they lived while in Cleveland. As I had not received this information relative to her detention until about 9:00 P. M., this interview took place about 10:00 P. M., it having been carefully ascertained by me that Francine had not retired. I saw her again on the following day and I recall definitely that I took to her several articles, such as candy and children's playthings. I do not recall now just how long Francine was held at the Juvenile Home but I believe that about a week after I first met her I was instructed by Inspector Cowley to bring her to Chicago, and also to go to the house formerly occupied by Gladys and Paula and to the apartment occupied by Wynona Burdett and secure for them all of the female wearing apparel that I could find. This was done and that evening I departed for Chicago by plane with Francine and three suit cases full of clothes for the women. It should be noted that prior to my departure for Chicago with Francine, Judge Harry Eastman, Juvenile Court, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, Ohio, had been in communication with the Ramsey County, Minnesota, authorities, and had learned the true status of the adoption which Harry and Gladys Sawyer had tried to effect and had turned Francine over to me with the distinct understanding that she was to be returned in the custody of the Federal agents to the Ramsey County authorities. Francine displayed great interest in the trip to Chicago and I recall that a great friendship sprung up between Francine and the Stewardess on the ship. The Stewardess asked me if I was the girl's father and I informed the Stewardess that I was her uncle. I recall that a luncheon was served on the ship and Francine thought that they were giving a party for her benefit. Upon arrival in Chicago, I was met by an agent from the Chicago office and taken to the Chicago office in company with Francine. I remained at the Chicago office only a matter of two or three hours and immediately returned to Cleveland by train.

I heard nothing further about the matter until about three weeks later I received a telephone call from Inspector Cowley from Chicago about 4:00 P. M., informing me that the women, Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon, and Wynona Burdett, had been released by the agents at Chicago and were voluntarily returning

to Cleveland and that I was to extend to them every courtesy. He also informed me that they had been given my office and telephone number and would communicate with me upon their arrival at Cleveland. At about 8:00 P. M., I received a telephone call from Gladys Sawyer, at which time she informed me that they had arrived in the city and that they had had dinner and would meet me at a restaurant downtown. As I had not as yet eaten dinner, I immediately went to Weber's Restaurant, where I found the three girls waiting. They were all in the best of spirits, and as I recall, we drank several glasses of beer while I was having my dinner. I discussed with the girls their plans and was informed by them that they had returned to Cleveland to get their jewelry and money from Ed Stanton and that they also desired to pick up a few odds and ends about the city. They were very much concerned about remaining in the city over night, stating that they were afraid that the "boys" might show up in Cleveland and bump them off, or that the Cleveland Police might again arrest them and throw them in jail. They inquired of me where it would be most suitable to stay, and I informed them that there were any number of small hotels in the outskirts of Cleveland where I thought that they would be reasonably safe. They informed me that if at all possible they did not want to stay in Cleveland. As I had an apartment in Cleveland at that time I offered the use of my apartment to the girls, informing them that I would go to a hotel for the night. I also informed them that Akron, Ohio, was only thirty-four miles distant; that they were entirely unknown in Akron and could go there without the least fear of being recognized. This plan appeared mutually agreeable and at about 10:00 P. M., I left Cleveland with the three women for Akron. Shortly after our departure, Gladys Sawyer informed me that she was taking a particular kind of medicine for an operation recently performed upon her, and that this medicine could only be secured at a certain chain of drug stores in Cleveland. I drove the girls around various parts of the city in an effort to locate one of these drug stores which was open and about 11:30 finally succeeded in obtaining the medicine for Gladys. We then again left for Akron. Upon arrival there we went to the Portage Hotel where the girls registered under fictitious names. Gladys and Wynona



were assigned to one room and Paula was assigned to the other room. I accompanied the girls to their rooms to see that everything was satisfactory and attempted to immediately leave. Paula Harmon became hysterical and begged me to remain with her for the night. I informed her that I had to return to Cleveland immediately and could not remain. I was then called in to the room of Gladys and Wynona where they informed me that in their opinion Paula was crazy and that if something was not done about it, she would get them all into trouble. Paula then came into the room and a general discussion ensued as to what was the most practical thing to do. The girls made it very obvious that they wanted to get rid of Paula and Paula made it very obvious that she wanted to remain with the girls, and wanted me to remain with them for protection. I attempted to soothe them in every possible way but to no avail.

Paula then decided that she wanted to go to Chicago where she had a bag checked at the La Salle Hotel. I ascertained that the Capitol Limited on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was to depart for Chicago at 2:00 o'clock. The girls then decided that it would be best for them all to split up and go their separate ways. However, I was confidentially informed by Gladys and Wynona that they did not intend to split up but were going to stick together, and that they merely wanted to get rid of Paula. Believing that Paula was going to take the 2:00 o'clock train, I accompanied the girls to the Baltimore and Ohio Station, and upon arrival at the Baltimore and Ohio Station, Paula decided that she did not want to go to Chicago but that she preferred to go to Cincinnati and then to Atlanta, Georgia, where she had relatives. This so angered Gladys and Wynona that they informed Paula that they were taking the 3:00 o'clock plane (although there was no such plane) and were going to go their separate ways. There being an interval of an hour before the plane was supposed to depart, I went to a restaurant with the three girls and we had a bite to eat. Upon leaving the restaurant, Wynona did not have any money so Gladys gave her \$100 and Paula gave her \$100. Gladys and Wynona informed me that they would communicate with me the following morning upon their return to Cleveland and with that stepped into a taxicab for the ostensible

purpose of going to the Airport. They, in fact, returned to the Portage Hotel where they spent the remainder of the night. Upon learning that I was returning to Cleveland, Paula Harmon informed me that she wanted to return to Cleveland and would take the train from Cleveland to Atlanta, Georgia, instead of from Akron to Cincinnati. I then took Paula to Cleveland to the Union Station where we inquired about trains, buses, and airplanes leaving for Cincinnati. I left Paula at the Union Station at 4:30 A. M., with the understanding that she was to leave at 8:00 A. M. for Cincinnati, en route to Atlanta, Georgia. I received a telephone call at the office from Paula at 9:30 A. M. that morning, at which time she informed me that she had decided not to go to Cincinnati as they would not allow her on the train. I inquired as to where she was and she informed me that she was in the Ladies Rest Room at Higbee's Department Store, which is a part of the Cleveland Union Station. I told her to wait for me there and I would come immediately, which I did, but upon my arrival at the Ladies Room in Higbee's Department Store, I was informed that a woman of Paula Harmon's description had departed shortly after making a telephone call.

In this connection, the activities of Paula Harmon, and considerable of the activities in connection with the return of these women to Cleveland and my contacts with them, is covered in a memorandum to the Detroit file, the same being written in response to an inquiry of a Mrs. Gaeher, Secretary of the Y. W. C. A., Cleveland, Ohio, which memorandum was written following a letter from Mrs. Gaeher to Assistant Attorney General Joseph E. Keenan, and, therefore, the same is not being incorporated herein.

At about 10:30 A. M., I received a telephone call from Gladys Sawyer, at which time she informed me that they had returned to Cleveland by bus and were at a restaurant near Eighteenth and Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, which restaurant I believe is known as "Mother Brown's". I met them at the restaurant a short time thereafter, at which time they informed me that the only thing that they wanted to do was to get a traveling bag which had been left at a repair shop on Superior

avenue, near Sixth Street, in Cleveland, and which was the property of Harry Sawyer, and they also desired to interview the landlady who rented the apartment to Wynona Burdett and Harry Campbell in an attempt to secure the furniture of Wynona Burdett, as she was in destitute circumstances. I accompanied Wynona and Gladys to the previously mentioned luggage shop, obtained the traveling bag, and turned it over to Gladys.

To the best of my recollection, from there we proceeded to the house formerly occupied by Gladys and Paula and secured a few more of the personal effects of Gladys. At this point I am not certain. We then went to the landlady who had rented the apartment to Wynona Burdett and Harry Campbell. We found that the landlady had removed all of the movable furniture and fixtures from the apartment and had divided these articles between herself and her daughter-in-law. I attempted to secure these articles diplomatically for Wynona but was informed by the landlady that she had been put to considerable notoriety, publicity, and expense, and she felt that she was justly entitled to the articles. The articles consisted of two bed room suites, a dining room suite, and two living room suites, together with all of the linen and personal clothing. I recall that she made Wynona Burdett the offer of \$100.00 for all the articles which had been taken and Wynona asked me what she should do about it. I informed Wynona that I was not in a position to give an opinion and that she should use her own judgment, especially inasmuch as she had an attorney, and I also informed this landlady, whose name I cannot now recall, that Wynona had an attorney who would probably take care of her legal interests.

Gladys Sawyer was not with us at the time of this conversation with the landlady, she having elected to remain in the car. Upon our departure from the house of the landlady, the girls advised me that they had finished their business and that they were ready to return to Chicago. It is to be noted here that at all times the girls denied

that they had ever seen their attorney, Ed Stanton, but it was observed by me that they had their money and jewelry which was formerly in Stanton's possession. I inquired for them the time of the departure of the next train and airplane for Chicago, and upon learning that there was a train at 4:00 o'clock, the girls elected to depart on this train. There were still two hours remaining before the departure of the train and we stopped by a small sandwich shop where we drank a glass of beer and ate a sandwich. The girls then stated that they did not desire to take the train from the Union Station but desired to go to the Rocky River Station, which is the suburban station of the New York Central Railroad. There was still considerable time before the departure of the train and either Gladys or Wynona, I have forgotten which, decided to get a haircut. I drove them around Lakewood until we succeeded in locating a womens beauty parlor in the outskirts, at which time one of the girls got a haircut and I remained in the car with the other girl. After about a half hour, the girl who was getting the haircut returned and we went to the Lakewood station from which they departed at 4:00 P. M. for Chicago. I immediately advised Inspector Cowley by telegraph of their departure.

Upon my return to the office, I learned that Paula Harmon had staggered into the Y. W. C. A. in a semi stupor; and that she informed the Y. W. C. A. Secretary of her incarceration at Chicago, accusing the agents of subjecting her to third degree methods. The complete details covering this are contained in my previous memorandum covering my contact with Mrs. Gaehr and Paula Harmon at the Y. W. C. A. Considerable of my activity in connection with Paula, Gladys, and Wynona, was previously recorded in a memorandum which was never made a part of a report but which is now, I believe, in the Cleveland or Detroit office files in this matter.

In conclusion, I desire to state that these women were treated as ladies at all times until the disturbance at the Riverside Hotel when it was impossible to treat them as such. To the best of my knowledge there was never any obscene language used in their presence nor were they subjected

to listening to foul stories being told among the agents. Upon their return to Cleveland, they were shown every courtesy that it was possible to show, and this agent was put to any number of inconveniences in attempting to encourage their good will toward the Bureau. The restaurant where dinner was had the night of their return to Cleveland is one of the most prominent restaurants in Cleveland and they were not secreted in any way, the table at which dinner was eaten being open to the public view, and there being numerous other guests in the restaurant at that time. As far as food is concerned, the girls refused to eat although food was tendered to them on numerous occasions. At the time they were taken to the Riverside Hotel, the girls, with the exception of Wynona Burdett who refused to tell us where she lived in Cleveland, were permitted to bathe and change clothes, although this courtesy necessitated their being permitted to leave their rooms.

I trust that the information contained in this memorandum sufficiently explains the situation and I shall be more than glad to supply any further details upon request for same.

*W. E. Peters,*  
W. E. Peters, *mg.*  
Special Agent.

WEP:msk

The following is that part of the memorandum which, for obvious reasons, could not be dictated to a female stenographer .

AS has previously been stated, at the time she was held at Cleveland, Paula underwent her menstrual disturbance which continued from the time she was being held in the Lakewood Police station until the time she departed for Chicago, and I do not know how much longer . At the time of the melee at the Riverside hotel, Paula had a defecation and succeeded in messing the trousers of Agent Donaldson's suit, the uniform of the Lieutenant of police, and the entire hall way from their room to the patrol wagon waiting at the rear entrance .

I recall that a collection was taken up among the agents to give to the Lieutenant to have his uniform cleaned and also to the hotel to employ someone to clean-up the room and the hallway .

I recall that when the girls returned to Cleveland after their release at Chicago, they referred to the incident at which time Paula stated that she had only done it because of the treatment she was receiving and either Gladys or Wynona spoke up and said that the only reason they didn't do the same thing was because they didn't think of it. It should also be stated that when the girls referred to the incident, they did not use any polite terms in recalling Paula's actions.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Cleveland, Ohio  
July 2, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HAROLD NATHAN

Supplementing my memorandum dated July 1, 1935, the writer wishes to state that he definitely recalls a statement being made by Gladys Sawyer to Paula Harmon at the Riverside Hotel on Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio, on the night of September 8, 1934, the same being made in the presence of the writer and Special Agent J. K. Collins.

Paula Harmon had been making quite a disturbance shortly after they arrived at the hotel and Gladys Sawyer made, in substance, the following statement to her:

"Behave yourself and don't carry on that way. You know if you were in the hands of the police they would not put up with it. These men are nice.

Respectfully submitted,

*W. E. Hopton*

W. E. Hopton  
Special Agent

WEH:MG

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*h n*



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~Division of Investigation~~  
U. S. Department of Justice

P.O. Box 4907  
Jacksonville, Florida  
July 3, 1935.

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

RE: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases,  
FUGITIVE, I.O. 1218; et al.  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim.  
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with a long distance telephone conversation with Assistant Director Harold Nathan, at Detroit, Michigan, and the writer, I am attaching hereto a memorandum prepared by me regarding occurrences at Cleveland, Ohio, on or about September 6, 1934, in connection with the detention at that City of Paula Harmon, Wynona Burdette and Mrs. Gladys Sawyer, in connection with the above entitled case.

Very truly yours,

*R. B. Donaldson*  
R. B. DONALDSON  
Special Agent.

RED:C

Enclosure.

Jax File 7-24

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*Handwritten initials*

Jacksonville, Florida  
July 3, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN,

RE: DETENTION OF PAULA HARMON, WYNONA BURDETTE  
and MRS. GLADYS SAWYER, at Cleveland, Ohio,  
in the case of United States vs. Alvin Karpis, et al.

On the early morning of September 6, 1934, I arrived at Cleveland, Ohio on a special bankruptcy matter. The morning papers carried a headline showing arrest by the police of three women and stated that they were connected with the Karpis Barker gang. Shortly thereafter I was in touch with Resident Agent W. E. Peters, and also the Detroit Office, the latter by phone. For the remainder of the day I worked on the matter around town, and shortly after 6:00 P.M. that evening S.A.C. William Larson arrived. Mr. Larson, in my presence, phoned to the Bureau at Washington, D.C. and talked to Mr. Newby. Upon conclusion of said conversation he stated that orders were for us to get custody of these women, who had by that time been definitely identified as Paula Harmon, Wynona Burdette and Mrs. Gladys Sawyer. Also that they must be taken to some secret place and questioned at the earliest possible moment. Further, that Inspector S. P. Cowley, now deceased, would be enroute to Cleveland, via airplane, from Chicago to take charge of the matter.

The following agents then went to police headquarters and conferred with Captain Story and his superior: S.A.C. Larson, W. E. Peters, the writer and, I believe, Agent Abe Dickstein. S.A.C. Larson and Peters presented the matter and after some discussion the police agreed to release the women. At about 10:30 P.M. they were brought to the police garage via elevator from the jail floor. In a police car they were transported to the Federal Building, and the police car left, as did police detectives. A few minutes later the women were placed in Bureau cars and taken to the City Building at Lakewood, Ohio. They were placed in an office room on the second floor, which had a private toilet adjoining same. Each woman was then questioned separately in another adjoining room by S.A.C. Larson for the remainder of that night and at intervals during the next day (9-7-34) and evening.

I remained on guard duty with these women from 10:30 P.M. September 6, 1934, to 3:00 P.M. September 7th; was absent on another detail for about two hours, then resumed guard duty until 11:30 P.M. that night, when the women were removed by the other agents to a nearby hotel. All during this time the women were supplied with coffee, sandwiches, cigarettes and such other items as they requested. I was accompanied by Agents Dickstein, Peters, Hopton and S.A.C. Larson while guarding these women as above set forth. Inspector Cowley put in appearance for a short time on the afternoon of September 7, 1934. Before being removed to the hotel on the night

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7-24

of September 7, 1935, the matter of voluntarily going to Chicago via airplane was discussed with these women. Mrs. Sawyer and Wynona readily agreed to go the next morning, but Paula Harmon was not willing and said she would think it over that night.

I did not see the women from 11:30 P.M. 9-7-34, when they were taken to a nearby hotel, until 8:00 A.M. 9-8-34. I went to this hotel in company with S.A.C. Larson. Also present were Agents Dickstein, Collins, Hopton, Socey and Peters. Some of these agents remained on guard duty at the hotel the previous night. When I arrived the women seemed to be in a highly excited state of mind and beyond all degree of reasoning. I did not talk to them or go in the two rooms they occupied. S.A.C. Larson did go in and attempt to quiet them and reason with them, but they became more and more infuriated. Finally they began screaming and stomping, and Mrs. Sawyer could be heard swearing above the din. Other guests in the hotel began to come to the halls and somebody called the Lakewood, Ohio, police. They arrived in a few minutes, accompanied by a matron, and took the women to police headquarters. However, before taking them into custody it was necessary to physically subdue them as they openly fought the officers and matron. Agent W. E. Peters and I then returned to police headquarters where the women were then locked up. I did not talk to the women after this, but was present when they were transported to the Cleveland Airport, saw them enter an airplane and watched it depart.

I have since interviewed Wynona Burdette in the County Jail at Jacksonville, Florida, on several occasions. During one of these interviews she commented about the Cleveland, Ohio incident. I asked her what caused her, Mrs. Sawyer and Paula Harmon to create such a disturbance in the hotel at Lakewood, Ohio, last September. She laughed about the incident and said that after being brought to the hotel, and while talking together in the night, Paula Harmon made them agree to put up a fight with the agents the next morning, and that Paula was really at the bottom of the disturbance.

Respectfully,

*R. B. Donaldson*

R. B. Donaldson  
Special Agent.

RED:C

Chicago, Illinois  
July 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN

RE: Accusations against Chicago office of  
the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Some time in the early part of September, 1934 I accompanied Special Agent L. D. Socey to Lakewood, Ohio from Detroit, arriving in that city early on a Saturday morning. We called at the local police station where we found several other agents. We were advised at the time that three women were in custody although I did not know at the time who these women were and did not see them until Saturday night. During the remainder of this day Special Agents W. E. Peters, L. D. Socey and myself searched for fingerprints at one of the homes maintained by these women and other members of the Bremer kidnaping gang, located on 140th Street west. An inventory was also made of all the furniture, household equipment, clothing and other articles in the house. Nothing was taken therefrom except paper evidence, such as laundry receipts, receipts for other articles, and notes containing names, addresses and telephone numbers.

On the night of this same day, Saturday, I saw the prisoners for the first time in a room at the Lakewood Police Station and was advised that they were Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett. About eleven o'clock it was decided to take these women to a hotel as this would afford them better sleeping facilities than those offered by the jail. Accordingly, they were taken by agents of the Bureau to a hotel in Lakewood, arriving there about twelve o'clock midnight. Special Agent Hopton and myself were assigned to guard them overnight. Two rooms on the second floor of the hotel at one end of the corridor were secured; these rooms being directly opposite to each other on opposite sides of the corridor. Inasmuch as these rooms were on the second floor, only a short drop to the street, I placed a large chair in the corridor at the entrance to these rooms in order to keep a watch on these windows. Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett were given one room and Paula Harmon the other. The doors of these rooms were kept open but the rooms were so situated that the women had plenty of privacy while disrobing.

During the course of this night Paula Harmon appeared very nervous and would start up out of bed every time a door closed or a board creaked, some times shouting at the top of her voice. Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett went to sleep as soon as they entered the room. In order to quiet Paula Harmon the writer sat on the edge of the bed, in plain view of Special Agent Hopton and talked with her for

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*H. J. A.*

at least an hour and a half, reassuring her that nothing was wrong and that nothing would harm her. She finally went to sleep but it may be here noted that Paula Harmon was at no time particular as to how she exposed her body to view, seemingly not caring about this detail. When any of these prisoners wished to go to the toilet, they were permitted to do so, unescorted, and no one was with them while in that room, agents only keeping a lookout on the entrance which was situated about forty feet from the doorway of the rooms, in plain view.

On Sunday morning Special Agent Hopton went out and purchased breakfast and cigarettes for these women and they were permitted to eat together in one room. However, it was apparent that they were planning some scheme among themselves.

About 9.30 A.M. or 10.00 A.M. Sunday morning, Special Agent in Charge William Larson accompanied by several other agents came to the hotel to get these women. This is the time when they started "raising the roof off the hotel" as it were, some screaming and shouting, although no one touched them. They emphatically refused to leave the hotel. Special Agent in Charge William Larson went into the room to talk with them and I heard one of them say that they wanted the name and badge number of every agent present before they would consent to leave. Mr. Larson brought in Special Agent Peters and showed his badge to them. At that they began to scream at the tops of their voices, to the effect that they were being kidnaped and requesting "help" and "Police". Paula Harmon leaned out of the window and shouted her name to the people passing on the street, telling them to tell the newspapers, to tell everybody.

Mr. Larson then placed a call for the Lakewood Police Department and in a few minutes several detectives rushed in, grabbed Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett. Paula was carried out by two Lakewood detectives by her arms and legs, she meanwhile screaming, biting and kicking. I personally helped carry Gladys Sawyer from this room and down the steps to the police car parked in the rear of the hotel. Only sufficient force was used to carry them from the room to the car and at no time were they struck or beaten in any way to the best of my knowledge. These women were handcuffed and driven to the local police station.

It was my understanding that they here signed waivers of removal and afterwards were driven to the airport where they were placed aboard a chartered plane. I accompanied Special Agents Cowley

and Larson to Chicago aboard this plane with these women. At the airport, we were met by agents of the Chicago Bureau office who escorted us to the office, 1900 Bankers Building by automobile. I had nothing more to do with them after arriving at the Chicago office.

On the following Tuesday I participated in a raid on another hideout of this "gang" at 71st and Franklin Boulevard in the city of Cleveland and subsequently an inventory was taken of the articles therein. However nothing was taken except a machine gun and a .380 automatic and a Ford coupe found in the garage believed to be the property of Harry Campbell.

I have read the copy of the accusations made by Gladys Rita Sawyer and to the best of my knowledge I specifically deny that they requested any medical attention; that they were beaten or struck in any way; that the agents told obscene stories; that the agents displayed guns in their presence or indulged in dry shooting; that agents applied epithets to them; that agents applied threats to them, or that any property was taken from them. At no time did I hear them request the services of an attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

*J. K. Collins*

J. K. COLLINS,

Special Agent.

JKC:JS

Chicago, Illinois

July 1, 1935.

Memorandum for Mr. Harold Nathan, Assistant Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice.

Re: Accusations Against Chicago Office  
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sometime in the early part of September, 1934, I accompanied Special Agent L. D. Sorey to Akewood, Ohio, from Detroit, arriving in that city early on a Saturday morning. We called at the local police station where we found several other agents. We were advised at the time that three women were in custody although I did not know at the time who these women were and did not see them until Saturday night. During the remainder of this day, Special Agents V. E. Peters, L. D. Sorey and myself searched for fingerprints at one of the homes maintained by these women and other members of the Bremer kidnaping "gang," located on 140th St. West. An inventory was also made of all the furniture, household equipment, clothing and other articles in the house. Nothing was taken therefrom except paper evidence, such as laundry receipts, receipts for other articles, and notes containing

names, addresses, and telephone numbers.

On the night of this same day, Saturday, I saw the prisoners for the first time in a room at the Lakewood Police Station and was advised that they were Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer, and Wynona Bourdett. About eleven o'clock it was decided to take these women to a hotel as this would afford them better sleeping facilities than those offered by the jail. Accordingly, they were taken by agents of the Bureau to a hotel in Lakewood, arriving there about twelve o'clock midnight. Special Agent Hopton and myself were assigned to guard them overnight. Two rooms on the second floor of the hotel at one end of the corridor were secured; these rooms being directly opposite to each other on opposite sides of the corridor. Inasmuch as these rooms were on the second floor, only a short walk to the street, I placed a large chair in the corridor at the entrance to these rooms in order to keep a watch on these windows. Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Bourdett were given one room and Paula Harmon the other. The doors of these rooms were kept open but the rooms were so situated that the women had plenty of privacy.



while describing.

During the course of this night, Paula Harmon appeared very nervous and would start up out of bed every time a door closed or a board squeaked, sometimes shouting at the top of her voice. Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett went to sleep as soon as they entered the room. In order to quiet Paula Harmon, the writer sat on the edge of the bed, in plain view of Special Agent Hipton and talked with her for at least an hour and a half, assuring her that nothing was wrong and that nothing would happen. She finally went to sleep but it may be here noted that Paula Harmon made no time particular as to how she appeared in order to view, seemingly, not caring about this detail. When any of these prisoners wished to go to the toilet, they were permitted to do so, unescorted and no one was with them while in that room, agents only keeping a lookout on the entrance which was situated about forty feet from the doorway of the room, in plain view.

On Sunday morning, Special Agent Hipton went out and purchased breakfast and cigarettes for these women

and they were permitted to eat together in one room.

However, it was apparent that they were planning some scheme among themselves.

About 9:30 or 10:00 A.M. Sunday morning, Special Agent in Charge William Larson, accompanied by several other agents came to the hotel to get these women. This is the time when they started "raising the roof off the hotel" as it were, some screaming and shouting, although no one touched them. They emphatically refused to leave the hotel. Special Agent in Charge William Larson went into the room to talk with them and I heard one of them say that they wanted the name and badge number of every agent present before they would consent to leave. Mr. Larson brought in Special Agent Peters and showed his badge to them. At that, they began to scream at the tops of their voices, to the effecting that they were being kidnaped and requesting "help" and "police". Paula Harmon leaned out of the window and shouted her name to the people passing on the street, telling them to tell the newspapers, to tell everybody.

Mr. Larson then placed a call for the Lakewood Police Department and in a few minutes several detectives

rushed in, grabbed Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett. Paula was carried out by two Lakewood detectives by her arms and legs, she, meanwhile, screaming, biting and kicking. I personally helped carry Gladys Sawyer from this room and down the steps to the police car parked in the rear of the hotel. Only sufficient force was used to carry them from the room to the car and at no time were they struck or beaten in any way to the best of my knowledge. These women were handcuffed and driven to the local police station.

It was my understanding that they have signed waivers of removal and afterwards were driven to the airport where they were placed aboard a charter plane. I accompanied Special Agents Cowley and Tamm to Chicago aboard this plane with these women. At the airport, we were met by agents of the Chicago Office who escorted us to the office, 1900 Bankers' Building by automobile. I had nothing more to do with them after arriving at the Chicago Office.

On the following Tuesday, I participated in raid on another hideout of this "gang" at 71st and Franklin Blvd. in the city of Cleveland and subsequently

an inventory was taken of the articles therein. However, nothing was taken except a machine gun and a .380 automatic and a Ford coupe found in the garage believed to be the property of Harry Campbell.

I have read the copy of the accusations made by Gladys Rita Sawyer and to the best of my knowledge, I specifically deny that they requested any medical attention; that they were beaten or struck in any way; that the agents told obscene stories; that the agents displayed guns in their presence or indulged in any shooting; that agents applied spitballs to them; that agents applied threats to them; or that any property was taken from them. At no time did either of them request the services of an attorney.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. K. Collins,  
Special Agent.

Chicago, Illinois  
July 1, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HAROLD NATHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

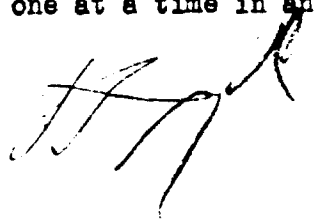
RE: ACCUSATIONS AGAINST CHICAGO OFFICE  
OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

The writer arrived on duty at the Detroit office on May 23, 1934, assigned to work under Special Agent in Charge William Larson. During such assignment at the Detroit office the writer was given the Northwestern portion of Ohio to conduct such investigation as might arise.

About the first week of September, 1934 the writer was instructed to proceed to Cleveland, Ohio for special assignment on the Bremer case. On or about September 7, 1934 Agent W. E. Peters, then the resident Agent at Cleveland, Ohio, informed Mr. Larson of the Detroit office that Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett were arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for raising a disturbance in the Cleveland Hotel while the three of them were very much intoxicated. On September 7, 1934, during the early part of the evening, the writer proceeded to the Cleveland Police Department in company with Mr. Larson, the Agent in charge, Agent R. B. Donaldson and Agent W. E. Peters. While at the Cleveland Police Department Mr. Larson spoke to Inspector Cornelious Cody of the Cleveland Police Department and after such discussion Mr. Cody consented to releasing the three women to the custody of Mr. Larson.

In view of the fact that the women had raised such a disturbance at Cleveland, Ohio and being arrested at that place, Mr. Larson stated that he did not want any further scenes and also did not want the newspapers to obtain the plans which he might have to interview the women. Mr. Larson subsequently arranged with the Lakewood, Ohio Police Department to permit the three women to be brought to that place for the necessary interviews. About the latter part of the evening of September 7, 1934 (this time being to the writer's best recollection) the writer, in company with Agent Peters, Donaldson and Mr. Larson, escorted the three women to the Lakewood Police Department and there the Chief of Police designated a room adjoining his office where the three women were to be kept. Mr. Larson instructed the writer and Agent Donaldson to sit with Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett while he, Mr. Larson, was interviewing them one at a time in an adjoining room.

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These interviews with the three women had taken up the most part of that first night and during this time the writer had made many trips to the restaurant to purchase coffee and cigarettes for the three women. While the writer made these numerous trips to the restaurant, Agent Donaldson would sit in company with the women.

All through the night the writer observed that the women were treated with courtesy by Mr. Larson and also by Agent Donaldson and the writer. The writer further recalls spending a few dollars for coffee, sandwiches and cigarettes, supplying the three women with the necessary wants.

The following day, September 8, 1935, Inspector Samuel P. Cowley arrived at the Lakewood Police Department and during the most part of that day Mr. Cowley interviewed the three women, and in the writer's presence except at such times as when the writer was sent down to purchase some food and cigarettes for the women. While the women were being interviewed Mr. Cowley was quite humorous with them and they responded to his jestures. The writer observed nothing but courtesy extended to the three women during that entire day.

The writer wishes further to state that during the time that the three women were being watched, Paula Harmon had made many trips to the lavatory, which was in the same room, petitioned off from the room in which we were sitting. On and during the day of the 8th of September, 1934, Paula Harmon deliberately deposited her bowel movement on the floor of the room where we were then sitting. It was very obvious that this was done for the purpose of forcing us to take them from the Lakewood Police Department. The writer recalls that the women and Agent Donaldson remained in the room and that the air was rather foul. Immediately after Paula Harmon disposed of her bowel movement she apologized to the writer and Agent Donaldson and she stated that she had a weak stomach and also a nervous one. During the latter part of the afternoon of September 8, 1934 Paula Harmon suddenly felt a nauseated feeling and felt very badly. Inspector Cowley instructed Agent Donaldson to get a doctor and I believe it was the Police Surgeon who arrived and asked her if she wanted a little bit "of that stuff". Paula Harmon suddenly became panicky and said in a yelling voice to the doctor that she does not take any dope and for the doctor to please not give it to her. The doctor then gave her some pills for her nervousness and she then quieted down. To the best of the writer's recollection the doctor then attending Paula Harmon at the Lakewood Police Department intimated that the girl looked like she needed dope tablets to keep her nerves quiet.

On the evening of the 8th of September, 1934, the writer observed Gladys Sawyer sign a waiver to be removed to Chicago by plane. The writer was not present to observe whether Paula Harmon or Wynona Burdett had signed this same waiver.

Immediately after Gladys Sawyer signed the waiver arrangements were made by Agent W. E. Peters to obtain some lodging for Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett. Such a hotel was located on Detroit Avenue at Cleveland, Ohio not very far from the airport. The writer was then relieved from duty and returned to the Carter Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, for the night.

On September 9, 1934 the writer was assigned by Special Agent in Charge William Larson to drive Inspector Cowley to the airport to make such necessary arrangements to fly the three women to Chicago. The writer was not present at the hotel where the three women slept and can not state what transpired at that place.

On the day of the departure and before the women were taken to the airport, the writer was asked by Gladys Sawyer to get some cigarettes and the writer then purchased about six packages of cigarettes and gave two packages to each of them. The Lakewood Police Department with Agents of this Bureau then escorted the three women to the Cleveland airport.

During the time that the writer was with the women, and from personal observation, Gladys Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett were treated with the best of courtesy and were given the things they asked for and no harm was done whatever.

The foregoing statement, furnished by this writer, is the truth to the best of his knowledge and recollection.

Respectfully submitted,

*A. Dickstein*

A. DICKSTEIN,  
Special Agent.

AD:fvv

July 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAROLD NATHAN

Since December 1 of 1930 I have been employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. During September and October of 1934 I was stationed in the Chicago, Illinois, Bureau office of this organization and was assigned to an investigation of the Bremer kidnaping case. I have read a letter written in the handwriting and signed by Mrs. Gladys Rita Sawyer alias Sandlovich, which letter is undated, and directed to attorney Eugene D. O'Sullivan of Omaha, Nebraska, together with a letter directed to his Excellency, the President of the United States, from attorney O'Sullivan, to which was attached a copy of the letter of Mrs. Sawyer making certain accusations against Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I wish to make the following comments with reference to these accusations.

On Sunday afternoon at about 4:00 o'clock September 9, 1934, the late Inspector S. P. Cowley, who has since been killed by gangsters, advised me to come to the Chicago Bureau office, 1900 Bankers Building.

Shortly after my arrival at the said office three Special Agents from the Detroit Bureau office accompanied by three women arrived, saying that they had come in from Cleveland, Ohio. I had previously been informed that the three women, Mrs. Gladys Rita Sawyer, Paula Harmon and Wynona Burdett, had been apprehended at Cleveland, Ohio, where investigation showed they had been residing with Fred Barker, Harry Campbell, Harry Sawyer, Volney Davis, William Weaver, Alvin Karpis and William J. Harrison, all members of the so called Karpis-Barker kidnaping gang, some of whom have since been killed during combat with Special Agents of this Bureau and some captured and sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiary for the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 16, 1934. Investigation by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shows that these men were most desperate in character and wanted by various law enforcement officials throughout the country for murder, kidnaping, bank robbery, etc.

Upon arrival of these women in the Chicago Bureau office the late Inspector S. P. Cowley assigned the writer to interview Paula Harmon, who was the "moll" of the notorious Fred Barker. Special Agent R. C. Suran was assigned to interview Mrs. Gladys Rita Sawyer and Special

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*Handwritten initials*



Agent J. L. Madala was assigned by Mr. Cowley to interview Wynona Burdett alias Walcott. Paula Harmon was placed in one of the small conference rooms located in the rear of the main office, while Wynona Burdett and Gladys Sawyer were placed in small conference rooms in front of the main office at 1900 Bankers Building. The offices occupied by Mrs. Sawyer and Wynona Burdett did not contain cots or sleeping arrangements on the day of their arrival, but the room occupied by Paula Harmon was equipped with an army cot, blankets, sheets and pillow cases. Toilet facilities were available in two different places in the main office.

Upon arrival of these women a matron, Miss Dorothy Horney, was present to act as matron for them during their stay at the Chicago Bureau office, and later at an apartment located on Sheridan Road, which was obtained for the safekeeping of these three women. Miss Horney acted as matron for twelve hours each day while a Mrs. Monahan, another matron, remained with the three women during the other twelve hours of the day. At all times these matrons were most courteous and helpful to the three women and accompanied them to the toilet rooms and assisted them in every way possible. Menus were obtained from DeMet's restaurant located within the Bankers Building and the women were allowed to choose the food they desired to eat and same was brought to them promptly whenever they desired food. They were permitted to have coffee at any time they desired it. When they desired to clean themselves a matron accompanied them to wash-rooms where they were given every opportunity to keep sanitary.

Upon arrival of Paula Harmon and during the first few moments which I talked to her she complained of a sprained wrist and advised me that she obtained this sprain while in a drunken condition on the day of her arrest in Cleveland, Ohio on a disorderly charge. I instructed one of the Agents to go to a drug store and secure a small bottle of liniment and upon obtaining this liniment I administered the fluid to Paula Harmon's wrist, which eased the pain.

I remained almost constantly with Paula Harmon from the Sunday upon her arrival in Chicago to the following Friday night when, upon instructions from Inspector S. P. Cowley the three women and several Agents of the Chicago Bureau office proceeded by automobile to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where an effort was made by Paula Harmon to point out to Agents a house which she believed was the place where victim Bremer of the Bremer kidnaping case was held while a prisoner. This trip consumed approximately six hours of travel and search. A day or two later the women were again taken to Round Lake, Illinois, located approximately sixty miles from Chicago, where Paula Harmon pointed out to Agents a cottage where she, together with Fred Barker, Edna Murray and Volney Davis resided during the summer of 1933.

Upon return to Chicago on that day I was instructed by Inspector S. P. Cowley to take the three women to an apartment which had been rented by Agents of the Chicago Bureau office located in about the 4100 block on Sheridan Road. I do not now recall the exact address. It was Mr. Cowley's belief, according to his statement to me, that the women would be safer at this point than at the Chicago Bureau office, as he feared members of the gang would attempt to come to the Chicago Bureau office in the Bankers Building, armed with machine guns and take the three women from custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Cowley, who was in complete charge of the investigation of the Bremer kidnaping case, advised at this time that he did not believe it practicable to place harboring charges against these women, due to the fact that they could probably be of much more assistance to the Bureau of Investigation while at liberty than should they be confined, but that it would be necessary to induce them to furnish all details possible concerning the gang's activities and to make every effort to insure their safety upon their release. Investigation at Cleveland, Ohio, by this Bureau showed that the male members of the gang, upon hearing of the arrest of the three women, left Cleveland, Ohio, and it was not known what their next step would be, their whereabouts at that time being unknown.

For complete information concerning the admissions and information furnished by Paula Harmon, it is suggested that the sworn statements furnished by her and directed to the writer be examined. These statements go into great detail as to the activities of the so called Karpis-Barker gang and their associates.

It will be noted from Paula Harmon's statement that she came from a good family in the State of Georgia, where she attended a private girls school in her early years, but later married a nationally known bank robber by the name of Charles Harmon, who was later killed during a bank robbery. She admitted that her automobile was overturned near Lake Charles, Louisiana, about three years ago, at which time she suffered a fractured skull. She also admitted that at times she realizes that she is not entirely mentally responsible. While in custody of Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during September of 1934, Paula Harmon was in constant fear of gang vengeance, believing that Fred Barker and other members of his gang would possibly kill her and other female members of this mob due to the fact that they had become intoxicated in Cleveland, Ohio, and were picked up by police, thus causing this gang to lose valuable machine guns and other property in absconding from Cleveland. On several occasions during the time of Agent's numerous interviews with her, Paula Harmon stated that she did not want to be turned free on the streets, as she was afraid she would be immediately killed. Her

confinement was thus voluntary at all times and she signed a statement to this effect when she was released about three weeks later.

While in the writer's presence, Paula Harmon used very little vulgar language and after the first day her attitude toward Agent was very friendly and at no time did Agent use obscene language in talking with her and the course of the conversation was always in connection either with her past life or her association with Fred Barker and other members of this gang. At no time did this Agent ever display a pistol to Paula Harmon, nor did the writer ever see any other Agent of the Chicago Bureau office promiscuously flash pistols or other guns in their presence, although Agents were usually armed due to the danger element involved in connection with the holding of these women.

Paula Harmon was permitted to rest at any time she desired. Food was ordered for her at any time she requested it. At times in the night she would greatly embarrass the writer as well as other Agents of the Chicago Bureau office and the matron on duty by getting out of bed unclothed and going to the drinking fountain. She was repeatedly warned that this should not reoccur, but evidently she was accustomed to walking around in the nude in front of anyone. As is set forth in her statement, Paula Harmon for several years operated a "call house" in the city of Chicago and evidently this association prompted her unladylike actions while in the custody of Bureau Agents.

The writer seldom saw Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett during the time they were held in the Chicago Bureau office. However, upon their transfer to the Sheridan Road apartment, Agent saw them on four or five different occasions when Agent would go to this apartment to confer with Paula Harmon concerning further details of her association with the gang. On the occasion of these visits to Paula Harmon, Agent often heard Wynona Burdett relating filthy stories and using the most obscene language Agent has ever heard. This conversation was participated in also by Mrs. Sawyer. However, Paula Harmon, while in Agent's presence, failed to use obscene language and Agent has never heard her relate a filthy story.

While in my presence during the many interviews with Paula Harmon no drugs, such as twilight sleep or so called "truth serum" were used on Paula Harmon and no suggestion as to the use of a drug was ever made to Agent or in Agent's presence. At no time did Agent strike any of the three before mentioned women and at no time in Agent's presence did any other Special Agent or employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation strike or use third degree tactics on them. At no time did the writer ever

hear any of the three women request the services of an attorney. As I have said before Paula Harmon did not desired to be liberated, but was anxious to take advantage of the protection being afforded her by Agents of the Chicago office.

At no time during my conversation with Paula Harmon or the other two women did I ever inform them that any members of the gang, their husbands or sweethearts had been killed or taken into custody, nor did any other Agent make such statements in my presence.

I do not recall ever having had a conversation with Gladys Sawyer with reference to a sentence her husband would receive should he be apprehended and convicted of being the "finger man" in the Bremer kidnaping case.

Upon arrival at the Chicago Bureau office, Paula Harmon, Gladys Sawyer and Wynona Burdett had considerable money and property which was brought to Chicago from Cleveland with them. This property and money was kept in the Chicago Bureau office safe until the release of these women, when the property was returned to them after being duly accounted for.

During the course of my numerous conversations with Paula Harmon she informed me that she wanted forever to get away from the company of gangsters and hoodlums and requested Agent's assistance in helping her to become enrolled in a business school or college in the City of Chicago and further assist her in obtaining a position should she be successful in graduating from such a school. On the day after Paula Harmon's release she informed me she expected to return to her home in Beaumont, Texas and later return to Chicago where she would pursue her contemplated education. About two months later Agent received a telephone call, long distance, from Paula Harmon, from Beaumont, Texas, at which time she desired advice from Agent as to whether or not it was Agent's opinion that it would be safe for her to return to Chicago and carry out the plan which I have just outlined concerning her education. Inspector S. P. Cowley was present during this telephone conversation and advised me to tell her that it would be safe for her to return as far as the Federal Bureau of Investigation was concerned, but that she should do so of her own free will and accord.

When I last saw Paula Harmon, which was two or three days after her release, she informed me she was in desperate fear of Fred Barker and other members of the gang and made the following statement, "I believe I will go mad if I don't get away from here, because Fred will

be looking for me in Chicago or near here".

I am submitting the above information concerning the accusations of Mrs. Gladys Sawyer and I wish to state that in my opinion as a Special Agent of this Bureau these three women were afforded unusually kind and courteous treatment while in custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that the charges made by Mrs. Sawyer are not only ridiculous but grossly untrue. As to whether or not Special Agents played poker while guarding these women either in the office at the Bankers Building or in the Sheridan Road apartment, I do not know, except I know I saw these women playing cards with some of the Agents who were guarding them on two or three occasions, but I saw no money, and it is not my opinion that they were gambling for money, but were merely assisting in occupying the minds of these three women while they were in custody and in making their confinement as pleasant as possible under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,



R. D. BROWN,  
Special Agent.

RDB:MG

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1935

TO: Director  
Tolson  
Edwards  
Clegg  
Tamm  
Quinn  
Egan

Files Section                      Identification Division  
Personnel Files                Statistical Section  
Mechanical Section           Technical Laboratory  
Chief Clerk's Office        Field Office

M  
Miss Gandy  
Secretary

Correct  
Re-write  
Re-date  
See me  
Send file  
Note and return

Mr. Nathan:

Mr. Nathan says that, rather than returning these originals to the Chicago Office, he thinks they should be placed in an envelope in the file, together with a notation to the effect that he obtained them from the Chicago Office files.

CSH

HAROLD NATHAN,  
 Room 5534

Lakewood, Ohio

September 9, 1934

We, the undersigned, do hereby state that we are willing to be transported by areoplane from Cleveland, Ohio, to Chicago, Ill and further state that this trip is being made of our own free will .

Paula Harmon  
Paula Harmon

Wynona Burdett  
Wynona Burdett

Gladys Sawyer  
Gladys Sawyer

Witnesses

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W. E. Peters

September 25, 1934

Received of J. L. Madala, a Special Agent in the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, at 1900 Bankers Building, Chicago, Illinois, one purse containing the sum of \$1.00 and all other property belonging to me which this organization had in it's possession since my arrival in Chicago, September 9th, 1934.

*Wynona Burdett*

Wynona Burdett

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September 23, 1934.

Received of R. D. Brown, a Special Agent of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, at 1900 Bankers Building, Chicago, Illinois, the sum of \$600.00 in the form of six one hundred dollar bills and one diamond ring which property has been in the custody of the Division of Investigation since my arrival in Chicago, Illinois, on September 9, 1934, and all other property this organization has had in its possession belonging to me.

Paula Harmon

Paula Harmon.

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146 DEC 11 1970

September 23, 1934.

Received of J. L. Madala, a Special Agent in the Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice, at 1900 Bankers Building, Chicago, Illinois,  
one purse containing the sum of \$50.00 and all other property belonging to  
me which this organization had in it's possession since my arrival in Chicago,  
September 9th, 1934.

*Gladys Rita Sawyer*  
Gladys Rita Sawyer

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September 23, 1934.

This is to certify that I, Paula Harmon, have been in the company of Special Agents of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, since September 9, 1934, of my own free will and choice, in an effort to cooperate with this organization in the solution of certain crimes.

Paula Harmon

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146 DEC 11 1970

September 23, 1934.

This is to certify that I, Wynona Burdett, have been in the company of Special Agents of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, since September 9, 1934, of my own free will and choice, in an effort to cooperate with this organization in the solution of certain crimes.

*Wynona Burdett.*

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September 23, 1934.

This is to certify that I, Gladys Rita Sawyer, have been in the company of Special Agents of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, since September 9, 1934, of my own free will and choice, in an effort to cooperate with this organization in the solution of certain crimes.

*Gladys Rita Sawyer*

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146 DEC 11 1970

Chicago, Illinois  
September 12, 1934

I, Gladys Rita Sawyer, age 38, do voluntarily make the following statement to R. C. Suran, Special Agent, Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice without any threats or promises being made to me.

I have been married to Harry Sawyer for eleven years and we have made our home in St. Paul, Minnesota all during our married life. We have no children but have in our custody a five year old child, Francine Faughnan, whom we have taken care of since January 21, 1933. My present address is Dayton Bluff Station, route #4, St. Paul, Minnesota. I have never known my husband, Harry Sawyer, to be in any other business except bootlegging in St. Paul, Minnesota.

During the past twelve years he has operated saloons at various times at 545 Wabasha Avenue; 543 Wabasha Avenue, and 541 Wabasha Avenue, all in St. Paul, Minnesota. The buildings located at the above addresses are owned by the Schmidt Brewing Company in which the Adolph Bremer family have a financial interest.

I personally have known Edward George Bremer for about eight years. The acquaintance has been of a business nature and I have done business with the Commercial State Bank, St. Paul, Minnesota, of which Edward George Bremer is an officer for the past eight years. The financial transactions I have had with the Commercial State Bank have been in my name although, Harry Sawyer, my husband has had a joint interest in the said transactions.

Harry Sawyer has known Edward George Bremer for a number of years.

I was in St. Paul, Minnesota in January 1934 at which time considerable publicity was being given to the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer, mentioned above, at which time I had no idea as to the identity of the persons responsible for this kidnaping. I also recall that early in February 1934 Mr. Bremer was released by his captors and considerable publicity was given to this.

Several days after the press carried the news of the release of Edward G. Bremer, my husband, Harry Sawyer stated to me "The boys got along pretty good". At this time I pressed him further as to what he meant and he said "Freddy and Ray" and I knew he referred to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis whom I had personally known for over a year. I took it for granted that he referred

*Gladys Rita Sawyer*

to the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer although he did not so state. Harry Sawyer did not go into full details about the case but from time to time within the next four or five months I obtained the information from Harry Sawyer that in addition to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis the other persons who assisted in the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer were George Zeigler, who I have subsequently learned was identical with the late Fred Goetz; Arthur Barker alias "Doc" Barker, Volney Davis, Harry Campbell and Bill Weaver. I had met all of these individuals named at my husband's place of business on Wabasha Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota from time to time prior to January 1934.

It was a month or more after the release of Edward George Bremer, that Harry Sawyer, admitted to me he was the "finger man" I mean that it was Harry Sawyer who pointed out Edward G. Bremer to one or more members of the gang and identified him as the prospective kidnap victim.

The ransom money which I understand was \$200,000. was paid to one or more members of the persons who were in on the kidnaping. I do not know which member or members of the above named gang collected the ransom money from the representative of the Bremer family.

The \$200,000 ransom was to be divided eight ways, the eighth individual supposed to share was a man named to me only as "Monty". I do not know what part "Monty" took in the abduction of Edward George Bremer but he was an associate of some member of the gang. "Monty" was to receive a percentage the amount of which is unknown to me.

I do not know where Mr. Bremer was held and any statements made in this regard would only be my own opinion, formed mostly from statements appearing in the press, supposed to have emanated from Mr. Bremer and I would conclude he was held in Chicago, Illinois or vicinity.

To my knowledge the ransom money has not been in its entirety exchanged for unmarked money. Harry Sawyer has only received a small part of his share.

I know of no persons by the names of John "Boss" McLaughlin, John McLaughlin Jr., Russell Gibson alias "Slim" Gray, alias "Slim" Evans, Dr. Joseph P. Moran, Jimmie Wilson or Ollie Berg and have received no information which would connect these individuals with the Bremer abduction.

Harry Sawyer has told me there would not be an entire division of the ransom money collected from the Bremer family until the entire amount had been exchanged for unmarked money with the exception of the amounts, unknown to me, which have already been exchanged and the share of the ransom which has already been given to Volney Davis and Bill Weaver who have ceased to closely associate with the other members of the gang.

*Gladys Rita Sawyer*

I desire to state that it is my understanding that with the exception of perhaps, Bill Weaver, and the individual known as "Monty" and whom I have never seen, the kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, were the kidnapers of William Hamm Jr. of St. Paul, Minnesota. Harry Sawyer was in no way connected with the kidnaping of Mr. Hamm.

The above facts as I have stated them were obtained by me from time to time from my husband, Harry Sawyer, as the other members of the gang have never in my presence discussed either the Hamm or Bremer Kidnapings.

Harry Sawyer obtained information that the U. S. Department of Justice was seeking him for questioning in connection with the Bremer case so Harry and myself accompanied by Francine Faughnan left St. Paul, Minnesota shortly after the 1st of April 1934 in our Plymouth Coupe and drove to Fremont, Nebraska where the Plymouth Coupe was traded in for a Plymouth Coach which latter car had been secured at Lincoln, Nebraska by Ray Sandlovich, my husband's brother, who resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. I think the Coupe was registered in Minnesota under the name of Frank James but I know the Coach was registered under the name of Frank James in the state of Nebraska. We were only in Fremont a few minutes. We proceeded in the Coach arriving at Las Vegas, Nevada shortly after the middle of April 1934. We stopped at various tourist camps between St. Paul, Minnesota and Las Vegas, Nevada. At Las Vegas we first stopped at the Boulder Hotel under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Frank James and later began living at various tourist camps in the vicinity of Las Vegas. Harry Sawyer at first thought he would open a saloon or gambling place in Las Vegas but later changed his mind.

About the middle of May 1934, I returned to St. Paul, Minnesota by train to see my doctor, who is Dr. Henry Hall, 1878 Jefferson Street, which house located at that address is my property.

I had been in St. Paul about two days when I met Jack Prieffer, who operates the Hollyhocks Inn, in St. Paul, Minnesota. I inquired of Prieffer if he had seen any of the boys meaning the persons who abducted Mr. Bremer, he replied in the negative. I then gave him an address of a party near Sioux City, Iowa to give to any of them who came to St. Paul. Harry Sawyer and myself had stopped and made previous arrangements with friends of ours who are guilty of no wrong doings and whose names I do not care to reveal, to have them forward any mail they might receive to Las Vegas, Nevada.

I saw none of the gang in St. Paul during the time I was there which was approximately ten days. I then left St. Paul by train and went to Omaha, Nebraska where I completed the trip to Las Vegas via airplane, the name of the line was either the American Airways or the United Airways.

*Gladys Rita Sawyer*



I had been back in Las Vegas with my husband about two weeks when we received a letter from Alvin Karpis from Cleveland, Ohio, stating "drop a line c/o General Delivery and come on back". I do not remember the name I used in addressing the letter to him but I did write and advised him we were leaving immediately. I do not know who secured the address from Pfeiffer.

Harry Sawyer had sold his car and we left Las Vegas by train shortly after the receipt of the letter and proceeded to Cleveland, Ohio via Chicago. After our arrival in Cleveland, we expected to be met by some member of the gang but no one was there to meet us and going to the Post Office we found that Alvin Karpis had not call for the letter I had written him from Las Vegas, Nevada. We then went to the Cleveland Hotel and registered as Mr. and Mrs. Frank James. I wrote Karpis another letter and two or three days later Alvin Karpis and Dolores Delaney came to the Cleveland Hotel and met us. We then went with them out on Flamingo Street, where they were living, but do not recall under what name. I do not remember the exact address of this house but believe it was in the middle of the 4800 block. This was about the middle of June 1934.

We stayed there about two weeks at the end of which time I had to return to St. Paul where I underwent a major operation at the Midway hospital. I was confined in the hospital under my correct name from about July 7th to July 25th, 1934. During my confinement in the hospital, Paula Harmon came from Cleveland, Ohio, to St. Paul for a one day visit.

Fred Barker drove me in his car from Cleveland, Ohio to Chicago where we visited one day with Mrs. Katherin Barker, mother of Fred, at an apartment on the south side of Chicago, the address of which I do not know.

I returned to Cleveland, Ohio about August 1st, 1934 and went directly to 10515 Parkhurst Drive, where Fred Barker and Paula Harmon were living together in an apartment. Harry Sawyer was already there having remained in Cleveland while I was in the hospital. Harry and I stayed there a few days with Paula Harmon and Fred Barker at the end of which time the four of us moved to a house at 4419 W. 171 Street, where we were living on the date of my arrest at Cleveland, Ohio on September 5th, 1934.

- Fred Barker and Paula Harmon were using the name of Mr. & Mrs. J. Earl Matterson.

*Gladys Rita Sawyer*

While I was living at 4419 W. 171st Street, Harry Campbell and the woman he was living with by the name of Wynona Burdett, visited us at the address on a couple of occasions. I do not know where they were living.

On the occasion of my first visit to Cleveland. Alvin Karpis drove Harry and myself to Sandusky, Ohio where we visited Volney Davis and the woman living with him. I do not know the woman's name but she is called "Rabbits". Davis lived in a cottage on the Lake Shore. Bill Weaver and Myrtle Eaton were living with Volney Davis and Harry and myself visited with them.

I have been shown the photographs of Fred Goetz, Chicago police Dept. #96578; Volney Davis, bearing number 12808; Alvin Karpis, K. S. P. #1559; Fred Barker, K. S. P. #9856; Arthur R. Barker, bearing number 11906 and a photograph marked Mrs. Katherine Barker and state they are the likenesses of the individuals mentioned by those names in this statement.

I have read this statement consisting of five typewritten pages, or parts thereof and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Signed

*Gladys Eaton Sawyer*

Witnesses:

*R. C. Suran*  
R. C. Suran, Special Agent,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Chicago, Illinois

*J. L. Madala*  
J. L. Madala, Special Agent,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Chicago, Illinois

*A. G. Schuss*  
A. G. Schuss, Special Agent,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Chicago, Illinois

Chicago, Illinois  
September 15, 1934

I, Mrs. Gladys Rita Sawyer, do make the following sworn statement to Special Agents R. C. Coulter and R. C. Suran of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, of my own free will, without any threat or promises being made to me.

I have been married to Harry Sawyer for eleven years and we have made our home in St. Paul, Minnesota all during our married life. We have no children but have in our custody a five-year old child, Francine Faughnan, whom we have taken care of since January 21, 1933. My present address is Dayton Bluff Station, Route #4, St. Paul, Minnesota. I have never known my husband, Harry Sawyer, to be in any other business except bootlegging in St. Paul, Minnesota.

During the past twelve years he has operated saloons at various times at 545 Wabasha Avenue, 543 Wabasha Avenue, and 541 Wabasha Avenue, all in St. Paul, Minnesota. The buildings located at the above addresses are owned by the Schmidt Brewing Company in which the Adolph Bromer family have a financial interest.

My husband, Harry J. Sawyer, prior to, during 1933, and thereafter operated a place at 545 Wabasha Street in St. Paul.

I do not recall the dates, but I recall during the time publicity was being given to the Ham Kidnaping that Fred Barker, Paula Harmon and Alvin Karpis were living at 204 Vernon Avenue in St. Paul. I heard this through conversation with various people, and on one occasion I took her to the house in my car, but I did not go in and that is the only occasion I was ever by there. The first I heard of them being gone was when I read in the paper that 204 Vernon Avenue had been raided.

On the morning the officers and Frank Nash were killed in Kansas City, I was at my husband's place on Wabasha Street in St. Paul just before midnight on the day before or shortly thereafter on the day of the killing and someone in the place answered the telephone and stated Kansas City was calling Harry. When informed Harry was not present no further conversation took place. After Verne Miller was killed I heard that somebody called the Hollyhocks in St. Paul of which Jack Pfeiffer is proprietor.

A few days before the shooting in Kansas City, Frank and Frances, accompanied by Frances' little girl came by the farm and visited with me for a few minutes. Frances said they were on their way to Chicago. I did not know for sure who Frank was until after he was killed. I knew Frank about six months longer than I did Frances, but I do not remember just how long I knew them, but it was possible a year. Frank was referred to usually as Frank or Mr. Jelly. I have seen Frank and Verne Miller together around my husband's place, and they were good friends.

I understood that Verne Miller, Vi Mathias, Paula and Charles Harmon and Frank lived in the same apartment building out on Lexington or Grand Avenue, or somewhere in that vicinity in St. Paul. After that sometime Harry and I visited Verne and Vi at the Lake Geneva Hotel in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. They

moved into a two-story cottage quite a ways from the lake and we remained in Lake Geneva only a few days and went back home. I understood the cottage was rented from two old maids and I recall there was a furnace in the basement and the cottage was clear around the lake from the Hotel.

From what I have heard, Doc Stacey and Herb Farmer were "fall guys" in the Kansas City shooting. They had nothing to do with it.

I met Doc Stacey during the football season during 1932 at the place I understood he operated around Chicago some place. I met Herb Farmer about 1933 in St. Paul. As I recall, I was in the place when he came in and asked for Frank. I later learned who he was - I don't think I was ever introduced to him.

It is generally understood that Verne Miller was in on the Kansas City killing, but from conversation I have heard, it seems that all his friends were accounted for at that time and it is a mystery to me who was with him, as Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis were busy in the Hamm kidnaping and I'm sure they were not in Kansas City.

About two years ago I met a man at my husband's place in St. Paul who was known as Gus. He was a short, chunky fellow and swarthy. That is all I can tell you except I judge he was between fifty and fifty-five years old. I may be wrong as to his age as I am not a good judge of ages. He was around there with Frank, I think. Also I believe he was from around Calumet City. About a year ago I heard he was dead but did not get any further details and do not know if he was supposed to have been killed. Gus was friendly with Verne Miller but Verne didn't like the way Gus talked, so vulgar.

A couple of years ago I heard that Fred Barker and the boys had a cottage at White Bear, Minnesota. About that time they were running around with a woman named Helen and a man named Earl. I heard later he was dead but I do not know how he was killed.

I have heard the name Homer but I do not recall the circumstances. I don't recall the name "Big Homer." I know no one named Charles J. Fitzgerald or "Old Fitz," and know of no such individual associating with Jack Davenport in St. Paul.

Thanksgiving, two years ago, Harry and I spent Thanksgiving with George Zeigler and his wife, or woman, Irene Zeigler at their lodge near Hayward, Wisconsin. We spent about two days there. I met Zeigler in St. Paul at the Hollyhocks at a big party including Jack Pfeiffer, Vi Nordquist, Harry and myself in addition to Zeigler and Irene.

I personally have known Edward George Bremer for about eight years. The

acquaintance has been of a business nature and I have done business with the Commercial State Bank, St. Paul, Minnesota, of which Edward George Bremer is an officer for the past eight years. The financial transactions I have had with the Commercial State Bank have been in my name although, Harry Sawyer, my husband has had a joint interest in the said transactions.

Harry Sawyer has known Edward George Bremer for a number of years.

I was in St. Paul, Minnesota in January 1934, at which time considerable publicity was being given to the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer, mentioned above, at which time I had no idea as to the identity of the persons responsible for this kidnaping. I also recall that early in February 1934 Mr. Bremer was released by his captors and considerable publicity was given to this.

Several days after the press carried the news of the release of Edward G. Bremer, my husband, Harry Sawyer stated to me "The boys got along pretty good". At this time I pressed him further as to what he meant and he said "Freddy and Ray" and I know he referred to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis whom I had personally known for over a year. I took it for granted that he referred to the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer although he did not so state. Harry Sawyer did not go into full details about the case, but from time to time within the next four or five months I obtained the information from Harry Sawyer that in addition to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis the other persons who assisted in the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer were George Zeigler, who I have subsequently learned was identical with the late Fred Goetz; Arthur Barker alias "Doc" Barker, Volney Davis, Harry Campbell and Bill Weaver. I had met all of these individuals named at my husband's place of business on Washburn Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota from time to time prior to January 1934.

It was a month or more after the release of Edward George Bremer, that Harry Sawyer, admitted to me he was the "finger man" I mean that it was Harry Sawyer who pointed out Edward G. Bremer to one or more members of the gang and identified him as the prospective kidnap victim.

The ransom money which I understand was \$200,000.00 was paid to one or more members of the persons who were in on the kidnaping. I do not know which member or members of the above named gang collected the ransom money from the representative of the Bremer family.



The \$200,000 ransom was to be divided eight ways, the eighth individual supposed to share was a man named to me only as "Monty". I do not know what part "Monty" took in the abduction of Edward George Bremer, but he was an associate of some member of the gang. "Monty" was to receive a percentage the amount of which is unknown to me.

I do not know where Mr. Bremer was held and any statements made in this regard would only be my own opinion, formed mostly from statements appearing in the press, supposed to have emanated from Mr. Bremer and I would conclude he was held in Chicago, Illinois, or vicinity.

To my knowledge the ransom money has not been in its entirety exchanged for unmarked money. Harry Sawyer has only received a small part of his share.

I know of no persons by the names of John "Boss" McLaughlin, John McLaughlin Jr., Russell Gibson alias "Slim" Gray, alias "Slim" Evans, Dr. Joseph P. Moran, Jimmie Wilson or Ollie Berg and have received no information which would connect these individuals with the Bremer abduction.

Harry Sawyer has told me there would not be an entire division of the ransom money collected from the Bremer family until the entire amount had been exchanged for unmarked money with the exception of the amounts, unknown to me, which have already been exchanged and the share of the ransom which has already been given to Volney Davis and Bill Weaver who have ceased to closely associate with the other members of the gang.

I desire to state that it is my understanding that with the exception of perhaps, Bill Weaver, and the individual known as "Monty" and whom I have never seen, the kidnapers of Edward G. Bremer, were the kidnapers of William Hamm Jr. of St. Paul, Minnesota. Harry Sawyer was in no way connected with the kidnaping of Mr. Hamm.

The above facts as I have stated them were obtained by me from time to time from my husband, Harry Sawyer, as the other members of the gang have never in my presence discussed either the Hamm or Bremer kidnapings.

Harry Sawyer obtained information that the U. S. Department of Justice was seeking him for questioning in connection with the Bremer case so

Harry and myself, accompanied by Francine Fraughman left St. Paul, Minnesota shortly after the 1st of April 1934 in our Plymouth Coupe and drove to Fremont, Nebraska where the Plymouth Coupe was traded in for a Plymouth Coach which latter car had been secured at Lincoln, Nebraska by Ray Sandlovich, my husband's brother, who resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. I think the Coupe was registered in Minnesota under the name of Frank James, but I know the Coach was registered under the name of Frank James in the state of Nebraska. We were only in Fremont a few minutes. We proceeded in the Coach arriving at Las Vegas, Nevada shortly after the middle of April 1934. We stopped at various tourist camps between St. Paul, Minnesota and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Enroute to Las Vegas, Harry and myself stopped at Reno, Nevada where Harry went into some gambling joint and inquired for either Fred Barker or Alvin Karpis, but the person or persons of whom the inquiries were made did not know the boys. We were in Reno just long enough for Harry to make the referred to inquiries.

At Las Vegas we first stopped at the Boulder Hotel under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Frank James and later began living at various tourists camps in the vicinity of Las Vegas. Harry Sawyer at first thought he would open a saloon or gambling place in Las Vegas but later changed his mind.

About the middle of May 1934, I returned to St. Paul, Minnesota by train to see my doctor, who is Dr. Henry Hall, 1878 Jefferson Street, which house located at that address is my property.

I had been in St. Paul about two days when I met Jack Pfeiffer, who operates the Hollyhocks Inn, in St. Paul, Minnesota. I inquired of Pfeiffer if he had seen any of the boys meaning the persons who abducted Mr. Brewer, he replied in the negative. I then gave him an address of a party near Sioux City, Iowa to give to any of them who came to St. Paul. Harry Sawyer and myself had stopped and made previous arrangements with friends of ours who are guilty of no wrong doings and whose names I do not care to reveal, to have them forward any mail they might receive to Las Vegas, Nevada.

I saw none of the gang in St. Paul during the time I was there which was approximately ten days. I then left St. Paul by train and went to Omaha, Nebraska where I completed the trip to Las Vegas via airplane, the name of the line was either the American Airways or the United Airways.

I had been back in Las Vegas with my husband about two weeks when we received a letter from Alvin Karpis from Cleveland, Ohio, stating "drop a line, c/o General Delivery and come on back". I do not remember the name I used in addressing the letter to him, but I did write and advised him we were leaving immediately. I do not know who secured the address from Pfeiffer.

Harry Sawyer had sold his car and we left Las Vegas by train shortly after the receipt of the letter and proceeded to Cleveland, Ohio via Chicago. After our arrival in Cleveland, we expected to be met by some member of the gang but no one was there to meet us and going to the Post Office we found that Alvin Karpis had not called for the letter I had written him from Las Vegas, Nevada. We then went to the Cleveland Hotel and registered as Mr. and Mrs. Frank James. I wrote Karpis another letter and two or three days later Alvin Karpis and Dolores Delaney came to the Cleveland Hotel and met us. We then went with them out on Flamingo Street, where they were living, but do not recall under what name. I do not remember the exact address of this house, but believe it was in the middle of the 4800 block. This was about the middle of June 1934.

We stayed there about two weeks at the end of which time I had to return to St. Paul where I underwent a major operation at Midway hospital. I was confined in the hospital under my correct name from July 7th to July 25th, 1934. During my confinement in the hospital, Paula Harmon came from Cleveland, Ohio, to St. Paul for a one day visit.

Fred Barker drove me in his car from Cleveland, Ohio to Chicago where we visited one day with Mrs. Katherine Barker, mother of Fred, at an apartment on the south side of Chicago, the address of which I do not know.

I returned to Cleveland, Ohio about August 1st, 1934 and went directly to 10515 Parkhurst Drive, where Fred Barker and Paula Harmon were living together in an apartment. Harry Sawyer was already there having remained in Cleveland while I was in the hospital. Harry and I stayed there a few days with Paula Harmon and Fred Barker at the end of which time the four of us moved to a house at 4419 W. 171 Street, where we were living on the date of my arrest at Cleveland, Ohio on September 5th, 1934.

Fred Barker and Paula Harmon were using the name of Mr. and Mrs. J. Earl Matterson.



While I was living at 4419 W. 171st Street, Harry Campbell and the woman he was living with by the name of Wynona Burdett, visited us at the address on a couple of occasions. I do not know where they were living.

On the occasion of my first visit to Cleveland, Alvin Karpis drove Harry and myself to Sandusky, Ohio where we visited Volney Davis and the woman living with him. I do not know the woman's name but she is called "Rabbits". Davis lived in a cottage on the Lake Shore. Bill Weaver and Myrtle Eaton were living with Volney Davis and Harry and myself visited with them.

I have been shown the photographs of Fred Goetz, Chicago police Dept. #96578; Volney Davis, bearing number 12806; Alvin Karpis, K.S.P. #1539; Fred Barker, K.S.P. #9836; Arthur R. Barker, bearing number 11906, a photograph marked Mrs. Katherine Barker, and a photograph bearing name of William Weaver, and state they are the likenesses of the individuals mentioned by those names in this statement.

I further state that I have not at any time seen any of the ransom money paid in either the Hamm or Bremer kidnappings.

Weaver and Davis left Sandusky two or three weeks prior to my arrest in Cleveland, Ohio and I do not know where they intended to go.

At the time of my arrest at Cleveland, Ohio on September 5, 1934, I had concealed on my person three \$500 bills and seven \$100 bills, one solitaire diamond ring, one double solitaire diamond ring, one pair diamond ear screws and one unmounted diamond. The money was that which I had withdrawn from the safety deposit box at Commercial State Bank, St. Paul, Minnesota, in May 1934, and was not money which had been obtained in the exchange of the Bremer ransom money.

I turned the money and jewelry over to an attorney at Cleveland, Ohio, while I was in jail to keep for me. This attorney was Ed. Stanton, whom Paula contacted at the police station in Cleveland. I told Stanton to try and reach Harry Sawyer and to have him inform the gang to "beat it".

Stanton has not to date been paid a fee and I have not had returned to me the personal property left in Stanton's possession.

- 8 -  
"Doc" Barker never at any time to my knowledge was accompanied by a girl and apparently has been in the penitentiary so much he does not associate with women.

The last time I saw any of the gang Karpis was driving a Ford Coupe, black in color with red wire wheels, he also had a Pontiac Coupe with yellow wheels. I do not know what model this Pontiac was, but it was not a recent model. "Doc" Barker was driving a new Chevrolet Sedan, black or blue in color. Harry Campbell was driving a Chevrolet Coupe which was not a new model. Harry Sawyer did not have a car in Cleveland and I do not know what kind of car was in possession of Volney Davis. The new Ford Coach in the possession of Wynona, Paula, and myself at the time of our arrest belonged to Fred Barker.

At about the same time I met Earl and Helen I met Bernard Phillips and I understand he is also dead. I do not know where he died, nor the manner of his death. I know Winnie Williams, but did not obtain the information regarding Phillips death from her and I do not know where I obtained this information.

The Parkers and Karpis while being friendly with Phillips at one time finally refused to work with him because Phillips had formerly been employed as an officer of the law.

I have read this statement consisting of eight (8) typewritten pages, or parts thereof, and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses:

R.C. Egan, Special Agent,  
Division of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Chicago, Illinois.

R.L. Brown, Special Agent,  
Division of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 18th day  
of September, A.D. 1934

Notary Public

Chicago, Illinois  
September 15, 1934.

I, MRS. GLADYS RITA SAWYER, do make the following sworn statement to Special Agents R. C. Coulter and R. C. Suran of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, of my own free will, without any threat or promises being made to me.

I have been married to Harry Sawyer for eleven years and we have made our home in St. Paul, Minnesota all during our married life. We have no children but have in our custody a five-year old child, Francine Faughnam, whom we have taken care of since January 21, 1933. My present address is Dayton Bluff Station, Route #4, St. Paul, Minnesota. I have never known my husband, Harry Sawyer, to be in any other business except bootlegging in St. Paul, Minnesota.

During the past twelve years he has operated saloons at various times at 545 Wabasha Avenue; 543 Wabasha Avenue, and 541 Wabasha Avenue, all in St. Paul, Minnesota. The buildings located at the above addresses are owned by the Schmidt Brewing Company in which the Adolph Bremer family have a financial interest.

My husband, Harry J. Sawyer, prior to, during 1933, and thereafter operated a place at 543 Wabasha Street in St. Paul.

I do not recall the dates, but I recall during the time publicity was being given to the Hamm Kidnaping that Fred Barker, Paula Harmon, and Alvin Karpis were living at 204 Vernon Avenue in St. Paul. I heard this through conversation with various people, and on one occasion I took her to the house in my car, but I did not go in and that is the only occasion I was ever by there. The first I heard of their being gone was when I read in the paper that 204 Vernon Avenue had been raided.

The night prior to the morning the officers and Frank Nash were killed in Kansas City, Missouri, I was at my husband's place of business, 543 Wabasha Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, about midnight. I fix the time at about midnight because I had just come from the last show at the Paramount Theatre, which show was closed at about 11:30 P. M. I attended this theatre by myself. I do not know where Harry Sawyer was at that time.

As I entered the back door of my husband's place of business I heard the telephone ring. There were several individuals in Harry's saloon at the time, the identity of whom I do not recall. One of these persons answered the telephone and called to me and asked if Harry was with me and I replied in the negative. This individual stated that Kansas City was calling for Harry. When this person ascertained that Harry was not present he advised the caller from Kansas City and there was no further conversation. Pat Reilly was a partner of Harry's at that time, but I do not know if he was present when the call came in from Kansas City. Later when the papers announced the massacre at Kansas City, Harry and I concluded that it had been Verne Miller calling from Kansas City in connection with the apprehension of Frank Nash.

Shortly thereafter I was in the presence of my husband, Harry Sawyer and Jack Pfeiffer at which time Harry and Jack were engaged in a conversation and I overheard Jack state that a call had also been received at the Hollyhocks Inn at St. Paul, of which Pfeiffer is a proprietor. I do not know who answered the telephone at the Hollyhocks as Jack did not state.

At the time school was out in May or June of 1933, Vi Mathias came to St. Paul with her daughter, Betty, and as I recall I met her at Harry's place. She said she had been to Brainerd, Minnesota to get her child. That is the last time I have seen her. I have not seen Verne Miller since several months prior to the occasion of Vi's visit.

A few days before the shooting in Kansas City, Frank and Frances, accompanied by Frances' little girl came by the farm and visited with me for a few minutes. Frances said they were on their way to Chicago. I did not know for sure who Frank was until after he was killed. I knew Frank about six months longer than I did Frances, but I do not remember just how long I knew them, but it was possibly a year. Frank was referred to usually as Frank or Mr. Jelly. I have seen Frank and Verne Miller together around my husband's place, and they were good friends.

I understood that Verne Miller, Vi Mathias, Paula and Charles Harmon and Frank Nash lived in the same apartment building out on Lexington Avenue or Grand Avenue, or somewhere in that vicinity in St. Paul sometime during the year 1931. After that, which was sometime in the summer of 1932, Harry and I visited Verne and Vi at the Lake Geneva Hotel in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. They moved into a two-story cottage.

quite a ways from the lake and we remained in Lake Geneva only a few days and went back home. I understood the cottage was rented from two old maids and I recall there was a furnace in the basement and the cottage was clear around the lake from the hotel.

From what I have heard, Doc Stacey and Herb Farmer were "fall guys" in the Kansas City shooting. They had nothing to do with it.

I met Doc Stacey during the football season during 1932 at the place I understood he operated around Chicago some place. I met Herb Farmer about 1932 in St. Paul. As I recall, I was in the place when he came in and asked for Frank. I later learned who he was - I don't think I was ever introduced to him.

It is generally understood that Verne Miller was in on the Kansas City killing, but from conversation I have heard, it seems that all his friends were accounted for at that time and it is a mystery to me who was with him, as Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis were busy in the Hamm Kidnapping and I'm sure they were not in Kansas City.

About two years ago I met a man at my husband's place in St. Paul who was known as Gus. He was a short, chunky fellow and swarthy. That is all I can tell you except I judge he was between fifty and fifty-five years old. I may be wrong as to his age as I am not a good judge of ages. He was around there with Frank, I think. Also, I believe he was from around Calumet City. About a year ago I heard he was dead but did not get any further details and do not know if he was supposed to have been killed. Gus was friendly with Verne Miller but Verne didn't like the way Gus talked, so vulgar.

A couple of years ago I heard that Fred Barker and the boys had a cottage at White Bear, Minnesota. About that time they were running around with a woman named Helen and a man named Earl. I heard later he was dead but I do not know how he was killed.

I have heard the name Homer but I do not recall the circumstances. I don't recall the name "Big Homer." I know no one named Charles J. Fitzgerald or "Old Fitz," and know of no such individual as sociating with Jack Davenport in St. Paul.



Thanksgiving, two years ago, Harry and I spent Thanksgiving with George Zeigler and his wife, or woman, Irene Zeigler at their lodge near Hayward, Wisconsin. He spent about two days there. I met Zeigler in St. Paul at the Hollyhocks at a big party including Jack Pfeiffer, Vi Nordquist, Harry and myself in addition to Zeigler and Irene.

I personally have known Edward George Bremer for about eight years. The acquaintance has been of a business nature and I have done business with the Commercial State Bank, St. Paul, Minnesota, of which Edward George Bremer is an officer for the past eight years. The financial transactions I have had with the Commercial State Bank have been in my name although, Harry Sawyer, my husband has had a joint interest in the said transactions.

Harry Sawyer has known Edward George Bremer for a number of years.

I was in St. Paul, Minnesota in January, 1934, at which time considerable publicity was being given to the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer, mentioned above, at which time I had no idea as to the identity of the persons responsible for this kidnaping. I also recall that early in February, 1934 Mr. Bremer was released by his captors and considerable publicity was given to this.

Several days after the press carried the news of the release of Edward George Bremer, my husband, Harry Sawyer, stated to me "The boys got along pretty good." At this time I pressed him further as to what he meant and he said "Freddy and Ray" and I know he referred to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis, whom I had personally known for over a year, as these individuals were the only persons I knew who associated with Harry Sawyer by the names of Freddy and Ray. I took it for granted that he referred to the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer although he did not so state. Harry Sawyer did not go into full details about the case, but from time to time within the next four or five months I obtained the information from Harry Sawyer that in addition to Fred Barker and Alvin Karpis the other persons who assisted in the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer were George Zeigler, who I have subsequently learned was identical with the late Fred Goetz; Arthur Barker, alias "Doc" Barker, Volney Davis, Harry Campbell and Bill Weaver. I had met all of these individuals named at my husband's place of business on Habasha Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota from time to time prior to January, 1934.

It was a month or more after the release of Edward George Bremer that Harry Sawyer, admitted to me he was the "finger man", I mean that it was Harry Sawyer who pointed out Edward George Bremer to one or more members of the gang and identified him as the prospective kidnap victim.

The ransom money which I understand was \$200,000.00 was paid to one or more members of the persons who were in on the kidnaping. I do not know which member or members of the above named gang collected the ransom money from the representative of the Bremer family.

The \$200,000.00 ransom was to be divided eight ways, the eighth individual supposed to share was a man named to me only as "Monty". I do not know what part "Monty" took in the abduction of Edward George Bremer, but he was an associate of some member of the gang. "Monty" was to receive a percentage the amount of which is unknown to me.

I do not know where Mr. Bremer was held and any statements made in this regard would only be my own opinion, formed mostly from the statements appearing in the press, supposed to have emanated from Mr. Bremer and I would conclude he was held in Chicago, Illinois, or vicinity.

Within the last month, prior to making this statement, Harry Sawyer told me that the Bremer ransom money had not, in its entirety, been exchanged for unmarked money. I do not know how much Harry Sawyer was to receive of the ransom money, but he told me that he has only received a small part of his share.

I know of no persons by the names of John "Boss" McLaughlin, John McLaughlin, Jr., Russell Gibson, alias "Slim" Gray, alias "Slim" Evans, Dr. Joseph P. Moran, Jimmie Wilson or Ollie Berg and have received no information which would connect these individuals with the Bremer abduction.

Harry Sawyer has told me there would not be an entire division of the ransom money collected from the Bremer family until the entire amount had been exchanged for unmarked money with the exception of the amounts, unknown to me, which have already been exchanged and the share of the ransom which has already been given to Volney Davis and Bill Weaver who have ceased to closely associate with the other members of the gang.

I desire to state that it is my understanding, derived from conversations I have had with my husband, Harry Sawyer, that with the exception perhaps of Bill Weaver and the individual known as "Monty", whom I have never seen, the kidnapers of Edward George Bremer were the kidnapers of William Hamm, Jr. of St. Paul, Minnesota. Harry Sawyer has denied to me that he was in any way connected with the kidnaping of Mr. Hamm.

The above facts as I have stated them were obtained by me from time to time from my husband, Harry Sawyer, as the other members of the gang have never in my presence discussed either the Hamm or Bremer kidnapings.

Harry Sawyer obtained information that the U. S. Department of Justice was seeking him for questioning in connection with the Bremer case so Harry and myself, accompanied by Francine Faughnan left St. Paul, Minnesota shortly after the 1st of April, 1934 in our Plymouth Coupe and drove to Fremont, Nebraska where the Plymouth Coupe was traded in for a Plymouth Coach which latter car had been secured at Lincoln, Nebraska by Ray Sandlovich, my husband's brother, who resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. I think the coupe was registered in Minnesota under the name of Frank James, but I know the coach was registered under the name of Frank James in the state of Nebraska. We were only in Fremont a few minutes. We proceeded in the coach arriving at Las Vegas, Nevada shortly after the middle of April, 1934. We stopped at various tourist camps between St. Paul, Minnesota and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Enroute to Las Vegas, Harry and myself stopped at Reno, Nevada where Harry went into some gambling joint and inquired for either Fred Barker or Alvin Karpis, but the person or persons of whom the inquiries were made did not know the boys. We were in Reno just long enough for Harry to make the referred to inquiries.

At Las Vegas we first stopped at the Boulder Hotel under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Frank James and later began living at various tourists camps in the vicinity of Las Vegas. Harry Sawyer at first thought he would open a saloon or gambling place in Las Vegas but later changed his mind.



About the middle of May, 1934, I returned to St. Paul, Minnesota by train to see my doctor, who is Dr. Henry Hall, 1878 Jefferson Street, which house located at that address is my property.

I had been in St. Paul about two days when I met Jack Pfeiffer, who operates the Hollyhocks Inn, in St. Paul, Minnesota. I inquired of Pfeiffer if he had seen any of the boys, meaning the persons who abducted Mr. Bremer, he replied in the negative. I then gave him an address of a party near Sioux City, Iowa to give to any of them who came to St. Paul. Harry Sawyer and myself had stopped and made previous arrangements with friends of ours who are guilty of no wrong doings and whose names I do not care to reveal, to have them forward any mail they might receive to Las Vegas, Nevada.

I saw none of the gang in St. Paul during the time I was there which was approximately ten days. I then left St. Paul by train and went to Omaha, Nebraska where I completed the trip to Las Vegas via airplane, the name of the line was either the American Airways or the United Airways.

I had been back in Las Vegas with my husband about two weeks when we received a letter from Alvin Karpis from Cleveland, Ohio, stating "drop a line, c/o General Delivery and come on back." I do not remember the name I used in addressing the letter to him, but I did write and advised him we were leaving immediately. I do not know who secured the address from Pfeiffer.

Harry Sawyer had sold his car and we left Las Vegas by train shortly after the receipt of the letter and proceeded to Cleveland, Ohio via Chicago. After our arrival in Cleveland, we expected to be met by some member of the gang but no one was there to meet us and going to the Post Office we found that Alvin Karpis had not called for the letter I had written him from Las Vegas, Nevada. We then went to the Cleveland Hotel and registered as Mr. and Mrs. Frank James. I wrote Karpis another letter and two or three days later Alvin Karpis and Dolores Delaney came to the Cleveland Hotel and met us. We then went with them out on Flamingo Street, where they were living, but do not recall under what name. I do not remember the exact address of this house, but I believe it was in the middle of the 4800 block. This was about the middle of June, 1934.

We stayed there about two weeks at the end of which time I had to return to St. Paul where I underwent a major operation at Midway hospital. I was confined in the hospital under my correct name from July 7th to July 25th, 1934. During my confinement in the hospital, Paula Harmon came from Cleveland, Ohio, to St. Paul for a one day visit.

Fred Barker drove me in his car from Cleveland, Ohio to Chicago where we visited one day with Mrs. Katherine Barker, mother of Fred, at an apartment on the south side of Chicago, the address of which I do not know.

I returned to Cleveland, Ohio about August 1, 1934 and went directly to 10515 Parkhurst Drive, where Fred Barker and Paula Harmon were living together in an apartment. Harry Sawyer was already there having remained in Cleveland while I was in the hospital. Harry and I stayed there a few days with Paula Harmon and Fred Barker at the end of which time the four of us moved to a house at 4419 W. 171 Street, where we were living on the date of my arrest at Cleveland, Ohio on September 8, 1934.

Fred Barker and Paula Harmon were using the name of Mr. and Mrs. J. Earl Matterson.

While I was living at 4419 W. 171 Street, Harry Campbell and the woman he was living with by the name of Wynona Burdett, visited us at the address on a couple of occasions. I do not know where they were living.

On the occasion of my first visit to Cleveland, Alvin Karpis drove Harry and myself to Sandusky, Ohio where we visited Volney Davis and the woman living with him. I do not know the woman's name but she is called "Rabbits." Davis lived in a cottage on the lake shore. Bill Weaver and Myrtle Eaton were living with Volney Davis and Harry and myself visited with them.

I have been shown the photographs of Fred Goetz, Chicago Police Department #96578; Volney Davis, bearing number 12808; Alvin Karpis, K. S. P. #1539; Fred Barker, K. S. P. #9836; Arthur R. Barker, bearing number #11906, a photograph marked Mrs. Katherine Barker, and a photograph bearing name of William Weaver, St. Paul P. D. #23452, and state they are the likenesses of the individuals mentioned by those names in this statement.