



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS

PART 6 OF 19

BUFILE NUMBER: 62-5033

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Osage Indian Murders

FILE NO. 62-5033

SECTION NO. 6

SERIALS 141-184

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City	DATE WHEN MADE: 4-3-25	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 2-9 to 3-16-25	REPORT MADE BY: Frank S. Smith.
TITLE: BRYAN BURELL et al O (Previously reported W. E. SMITH, et al)			CHARACTER OF CASE: Murder of Anna Brown, Osage Indian Woman.

(O. C. 70/1/3)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOINT REPORT AGENTS SMITH, STREET
AND BURGER.

SYNOPSIS:

Information developed from George Shipley concerning those responsible for murder of Smith family. Information obtained from Elith Fox at Pawnee, connecting Kelsey Morrison and others with murder of Anna Brown. Review of the arranging and setting of court of inquiry into the murder of Osage Indians. General results and attitude of State Attorney General's Department.

REFERENCE: Joint report of Agents Street and Smith, dated 1-26-25, captioned as above, and entire file, captioned "W.E.SMITH, et al, Murder Osage Indians".

DETAILS:

- At McAlester, Oklahoma -

One BLACKIE THOMPSON and GEORGE SHIPLEY were jointly convicted

for bank robbery, and are now serving twenty-five year sentences, respectively, at McAlester, Okla., for this offense.

Based on information brought to Oklahoma City Bureau office by wife of Shipley to effect that Shipley desired to divulge information of interest to the Government concerning Osage Indian murders, Shipley was interviewed, with

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>W. D. Bolling</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	102-5035-141	RECORDED AND INDEXED: 4-5
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: 42	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 Washington; 6 File.	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION APR 6 1925 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: Division 2	CHECKED OFF: APR 1 3 1925 JACKETED:

results as follows:

Under no circumstances would he appear as a witness and give due to the certainty that he would be murdered.

That on a date prior to the blowing up of the home of W. E. SMITH that he was at a place (declining to give location); that one HENRY GRAMMER, now deceased, in company with BILL HALL, came there in a car; that GRAMMER and HALL appeared to be drinking; that GRAMMER approached him and stated that they had been playing poker and displayed a large roll of money and asked him to assist in counting it; that he (Grammer) wanted to determine how much he had won; that he helped count the money which was about \$1500.00; that GRAMMER then asked him if he wanted to make some money; that he would give him the \$1500.00 if he would blow up the SMITH house; that he did not give GRAMMER a definite answer, but remarked "I will see you later"; that the conversation then ended, and on a later date that Hall approached him and told him that he would give him \$2400.00 to blow up the SMITH'S home; that he told HALL that he did not care to do the job; that HALL asked him where he could get some Nitro, and that he told HALL he had a man, a shooter, from whom he could get plenty; that later he understood (would not commit himself as to how he obtained this information) that CHARLES QUICK, ASA KIRBY and another party had been hired to do the job. (Informant on being closely pressed for the name of the third party left Agent to infer that it was BLACKIE THOMPSON) That QUICK, KIRBY and the third party came to him and he took them to a shooter for the Kansas Torpedo Co., then operating in the Burbank fields, and from this man they obtained a quart of nitro, paying him \$20.00 for it; that closely following the purchase of the Nitro Smith's house was blown up. Informant advised that QUICK was now in California, location not known; that ASA KIRBY had since been killed, and requested that he not be pressed for the name of the third party, and

remarked: "Blanche is serving a life sentence and the reason he did not tell all what he was on the ground was that he could not afford to, that is, to sit in the 'hot chair'" (meaning the Electric Chair).

Informant advised Agent that he and ~~BLACKIE~~ were closer together than brothers, and that ~~BLACKIE~~ would tell him everything, and that he would proceed to work on ~~Blackie~~ and get all of the details.

At this juncture informant advised agent that one FRED TENDAL, commonly called "We Tompke" was a close friend of HENRY GRAMMER, and was used by GRAMMER and HALL as a go-between man in securing the services of the trio to blow up SMITH'S house, and if he could be made to talk could tell the whole story, and suggested that in view of GRAMMER being now dead and there being no particulars existing friendship between TENDAL and HALL that if properly handled TENDAL would talk if he knew that he would not be prosecuted, as Tendal was afraid of the courts and consequences of prosecution.

The following is a description of the man referred to as a shooter for the Kansas Torpedo Co., from whom informant states Nitro was purchased: tall, slender, black hair, about 35-years of age.

Informant stated that above party did not know for what purpose the Nitro was purchased was to be used for, and no doubt could be prevailed upon to tell the truth and promised to obtain his name and present location.

In above respect attention is respectfully called to the fact that this informant was laboring under the impression that immunity would be granted him should he depart information of material assistance to the Government and State in the development of cases involved, and before he would divulge the facts as outlined in this report he asked that the Attorney-General of Oklahoma be conferred with and an understanding had that such would be the case. Agent therefore -

conferred with Asst. Attorney General King, and was instructed by him to inform informant that should the information he proposed to give develop of value in the development of the cases involved, that after such development that unquestionably his Department would recommend clemency for him.

Agent basing his conclusions on the character of informant, his close affiliation in the past with BLANCH THOMPSON, and his demeanor in exposing his knowledge of affairs in this matter - that such information as he has furnished was obtained from BLANCH THOMPSON.

(AT PAWBUKA, OKLA.)

One EDITH DAVIS, an underworld character, confidentially divulged to Agent Burges the following information:

That one CATHERINE COLE, who at one time was the wife of KELSEY MORRISON, a notorious unscrupulous criminal, conspicuously mentioned in former reports of previous agents assigned on this investigation as suspected of participating in Indian murders, and a known protege of suspect BILL HALL, told her that KELSEY MORRISON shot ANNA BROWN, that CATHERINE COLE and KELSEY MORRISON were riding in a car, closely following the car in which ANNA BROWN and BRYAN BURKHART were riding and that KELSEY drove up and stopped his car behind the BURKHART - Anna Brown car, and shot ANNA BROWN in the head, and that her body was then driven to the spot where it was later found and deposited there; that BILL HALL paid MORRISON \$1500. for killing ANNA BROWN; EDITH DAVIS stating that CATHERINE COLE had repeatedly told her this story and that she would cause CATHERINE COLE to tell MR. BURGER. CATHERINE COLE is a full blood Osage Indian woman, [REDACTED] has had several husbands and has recently been married MORRISON.

(3)
January
On February 9th, Agents SMITH and STREET - on Special Assignment

City, began preparations for a continuation of investigation
bringing about of prosecution by the State of Oklahoma of those responsible for
the murder of several Osage Indians. A close scrutiny of voluminous Bureau file
compiled by prior Government agents and private investigations, covering a period
of two years work, revealed some material leads in the several murders, and suf-
ficient developed evidence in the ANNA BROWN case to in our judgment warrant im-
mediate prosecution of at least one man, to-wit: BRYANT BUREHART. We then pre-
pared a digest of evidence in the ANNA BROWN murder case for the information of
the Attorney-General, as a basis to start prosecution.

Attorney General Short of Oklahoma was then conferred with, and
made acquainted with the detailed developments at hand. A definite course of pro-
cedure was then decided on by Mr. Short - i.e. to determine what cooperation
could be expected from the local district and County Officials of Osage County,
and promised to dispatch a representative to Pawhuska to confer with the District
Judge to determine his attitude and arrange for the convening of a Grand Jury in
Osage County, and on completion of such arrangement would then secure entire
resources of the State in seeing that vigorous investigation and prosecution of
these murders was concluded. Further conferences were delayed by the Attorney-
General until Jan. 27th, on which date he advised that he was sure that his ar-
rangement for convening of a Grand Jury would be considered and a Grand Jury
convened by Feb. 16th, and suggested the inadvisability of proceeding further
with investigative work prior to convening the Grand Jury, and requesting that
Government investigators be on hand and ready for action on Feb. 16th. Agents
Smith and Street returned to their respective headquarters and on a later date,
through Agent in Charge Bolling, Agents were advised that Mr. Short had placed

the convening of a Grand Jury for March 1st.

On Feb. 9th, Agents Street, Smith and Burger were called in
Oklahoma City, and proceed along the lines of bring^{ing} about, cooperating with the
Attorney-General's Department. Attorney-General Short then assigned Mr. BARRY
KING, his Assistant, to handle the prosecution of these cases. On being advised
by Mr. King of there having been no definite arrangements with the District Judge
of Osage County for the convening of a Grand Jury, Agents Smith and Burger then
conferred with District Judge Morton, who advised against a Grand Jury, giving
very plausible reasons, but instead suggested a Court of Inquiry, in which he
would preside, and promised to convene this Court March 9th, giving the State
one week, or as much more time as desired.

Asst. Attorney-General King was then advised of the Court's
suggestion, and expressed himself as highly pleased with a Court of Inquiry, and
frankly stated that the influences of those responsible for the murders would
unquestionably disrupt a Grand Jury, and definitely decided to proceed before the
Court of Inquiry, March 9th, promising to communicate with the District Judge
and consummate such arrangements. Mr. King then suggested the advisability of
having an Asst. United States Attorney to assist in the matters, and advised
that he had wired the Department at Washington asking Asst. United States Attor-
ney St. Louis of Oklahoma City, be assigned.

On March 7th, after being advised by MR. KING that he would
reach Pawhuska on the night of March 8th, Agents proceeded to Pawhuska and on
confering with District Judge Morton was advised that he had received no word
from the Attorney-General with reference to a definite setting of the Court of
Inquiry, however, anticipating such procedure, was ready to convene the Court
March 9th. On March 8th Agent Smith received a telephone call from Mr. King,

advising that Attorney-General Short was sick and expressed a desire that he (King) not leave Oklahoma City until he was better, and promised to be at Pawhuska by Wednesday morning, March 11th, requesting that Agent have all cases prepared for witnesses to be used before the Court of Inquiry, and further advised that no instruction had been received assigning Asst. U. S. Attorney St. Louis, which he expected would arrive so that Mr. St. Louis would be on hand March 11th.

On March 11th, Mr. King arrived at Pawhuska, about noon, and after conferences with Asst. U. S. Attorney-General, Justice Smith and Agents, very frankly stated that he, as a representative of the Attorney-General, was not disposed to shoulder the responsibility of further proceeding with the prosecution of the cases, without the assistance of a Government prosecutor, assigned to follow the matter to a conclusion, and suggested that Agents withdraw pending arrangements by the Government for such cooperation.

On March 10th, there appeared an associated press interview with Attorney General Short in the Oklahoma papers, announcing the convening of a Court of Inquiry for Wednesday, March 11th, at Pawhuska, for the purpose of questioning witnesses relative to the numerous Osage Indian Murders. On the arrival of Asst. Attorney-General King at Pawhuska, March 11th, also came numerous news reporters, and following close thereafter appeared an article quoting Mr. King, stating that Buckle Thompson would be brought before the Court as a witness and another convict, who had been prevailed upon by his wife to make a confession, would be used as a witness. Mr. King later admitted that he had given the above information to a reporter. There was an expressed understanding between Attorney-General Short, his Asst. - Mr. King, and District Judge Morton, and Agents of this Bureau, that secrecy relative to convening

of the court, and its procedure, should prevail, and especially until process had been served on witnesses, and their attendance assured.

The following is a self explanatory letter obtained from Asst. Attorney-General King, dealing with that Department's attitude with respect to future prosecution of cases involved:

"In compliance with your request for a written statement defining the position of the ^{office of the} Attorney General of Oklahoma with reference to the investigation which has been carried on by the Federal Government, relating to certain deaths of Osage wards of the Government, in Osage County, during the past four years, permit me to give you my personal understanding of what has been done and what can be done in these matters.

It is my understanding that the Attorney General's Department became interested in these matters some time ago and a conference between Honorable George F. Short and Commissioner Burke, and later with Assistant Attorney General Crim, in Washington, was arranged, out of which conferences Mr. Short drew the inference that Mr. Roy St. Louis, an Assistant District Attorney, for the Western District of Oklahoma, would be assigned to cooperate in considering the evidence assembled by the federal investigators and determining the advisability of bringing criminal prosecutions should charges be preferred, to assist in the prosecution thereof.

It appears that a number of agents of the Department of Justice have from time to time have made independent and collective investigations of these several cases. Several weeks ago you, in company with Mr. John Burger of Kansas City office and Mr. Alex Street of the El Paso office, called upon the Attorney General for the purpose of enlisting his offices in either causing to be called a grand jury, court of investigation or some other means of providing a way for witnesses to be called to testify under oath and their testimony to be preserved. At that time the Attorney General assured you that you would have the hearty cooperation of his office and he assigned Mr. John Barry to these cases. Mr. Barry resigned as Assistant Attorney General on February 1st., to become associated with the Rock Island Railway Company and the Attorney General then promised you that you would have my services at your disposal in these cases. Accordingly, as you know, we had several conferences and it was our joint judgment that a quiet court of inquiry would perhaps be the most effective way of developing these several cases. Proceeding under this plan the Judge of the District Court of Osage County, Oklahoma, at your request, set apart this week, beginning Monday March 9th, and ending today, exclusively for consideration of these cases.

Something like two weeks ago you told me that Mr. Bolling of your office had requested the assignment of a law representative of the Federal Government to cooperate with me in these matters and you indicated that Mr. Roy St. Louis had been suggested as an available and satisfactory lawyer to be placed upon these cases. I had wired the Attorney General of the United States in the name of the Attorney Gen-

eral of Oklahoma, requesting also the assignment of Mr. St. Louis or some other representative of the Attorney General's Office to appear with me at Pawhuska on Monday of this week. I did not receive an answer to my telegram until Monday morning March 10th about ten o'clock at which time I received a wire from Acting Attorney General Beck advising that Mr. Eustace Smith, special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, had been directed to meet me in Pawhuska, for consideration of these cases. Mr. Smith's secretary telephoned me at the same hour that Mr. Smith was in Muskogee and would not be able to reach Pawhuska until 1:45 on Wednesday March 11th. In the meantime I had communicated with you by long distance telephone and also with Mr. Bolling, in charge of your office here, advising that I would be in Pawhuska early Wednesday in advance of Mr. Smith and ready to cooperate with him on his arrival. In furtherance of this plan I left Oklahoma City by automobile Tuesday afternoon taking with me Mr. W. O. Gordon, the evidence man out of the office of the Attorney General. It was the desire of the Attorney General not only to assign me for whatever services I might perform but also to assign his evidence man for such services as he might be able to render in these cases. Mr. Gordon and myself met you, Mr. Burger, Mr. Street and Mr. Eustace Smith and as you know held several conferences on Wednesday at Pawhuska, also on Thursday, with reference to these several matters. It is my understanding that we all agreed that it was not advisable to create a court of inquiry in Pawhuska at that time for the following reasons:

FIRST. Mr. Eustace Smith, single law representative of the Federal Government in the cases, stated that he was compelled to leave Pawhuska on Thursday afternoon at 12:50 for St. Louis and would not be able to appear further in the court of inquiry should we proceed with the same. Mr. Smith also stated that he was sent only for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not there was any federal question involved and to report to the Department. It is my understanding that he did make a written report to the Department of Justice, which report he dictated to the official reporter I took with me to Pawhuska for such use as we might want to make of him while investigating these cases.

SECOND. I do not feel called upon at this time to report definitely as to whether or not the investigators of the federal government have developed sufficient evidence to warrant filing informations against anyone for the specific reason that it has been my understanding that the Federal Government would assign a law representative who, together with myself would analyze the records which have been made; considering the testimony and thereafter determining the advisability of and the manner of view of this understanding, why I did not feel disposed to singly decide the serious questions involved. Mr. Eustace Smith indicated that perhaps the Federal Government would carry out what has been my understanding all along; the plan of assigning some law representative to cooperate with our office.

THIRD. I wish to emphasize the fact now that due to the remote time, the limited and uncertain circumstances of guilt and the powerful influence surrounding the person under suspicion in these cases, the facts challenge the earnest, serious and concentrated efforts of really highpowered prosecutors. It was suggested that some representative of the Law Department of the Federal Government, no less experienced than Mr. Eustace Smith, Mr. Osborne or Mr. Roy St. Louis, be assigned to these cases. I trust that I will not be deemed immodest when I say that the Attorney General realizing the seriousness of the cases not only has determined to assign

DIRECTOR



Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

WVG:GA

April 2, 1926.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

This memorandum is merely for record purposes and confirms that Mr. Ridgely will answer the letter to the Department on the Osage Indian Murder case and ask for some definite information and a more positive request for assignment.

In the meantime one of the attorneys from Mr. Wells' Division is enroute to Oklahoma who is interested in the Indian matter and he also will look over the situation according to Mr. Ridgely.

Respectfully,

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-142	
APR 2 1926 P.M.	
Division	

From

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General ☐

General Holland ☐

General Willebrandt ☐

General Donovan ☐

Mr. Martin ☐

Mr. Strong ☐

Mr. Stewart ☐

Mrs. Rishel ☐

Assistant Director ☐

Mr. Baughman ☐

Mr. Boddie ☐

Bureau Filing Section ☐

Mr. Cunningham ☐

Miss Gandy ☐

Mr. Grimes ☐

Mr. Keep ☐

Mr. McKean ☐

Personnel Filing Section ☐

*See that a copy
of this gets to
Mr. Ridgely at
once. It is very
important.*

JAA

4/9/25

done 4/9/25

Indian office file

OFFICIAL BUREAU OFFICE

Wm. A. R.

From

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General ☐ *See memo*
General Holland ☐ *4/7/25*
General Willebrandt ☐
General Donovan ☐
Mr. Martin ☐
Mr. Strong ☐
Mr. Stewart ☐
Mrs. Rishel ☐
Assistant Director ☐
Mr. Baughman ☐
Mr. Boddie ☐
Bureau Filing Section ☐
Mr. Cunningham ☐
Miss Gandy ☐
☒ Mr. Grimes ☐
Mr. Keep ☐
Mr. McKean ☐
Personnel Filing Section ☐
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..... ☐

61811

*Wanted 8-10-25
4/7/25*

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City	DATE WHEN MADE: 4-8-25	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 4-1-8-25	REPORT MADE BY: Frank S. Smith.
TITLE: Bryan D. Smith et al (Previously reported W. K. SMITH, et al)			CHARACTER OF CASE: Murder of ALICE BROWN, Osage Indian Woman.

(O. C. 70/1/4)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOINT REPORT AGENTS SMITH AND
BURGER.

Conferences with Assistant Attorney General King. Remoteness of convening of court of competent jurisdiction. Cooperation by the Indian Service to the state; closing of investigation.

REFERENCE: Special reference is had to joint report of Agents Smith, Street and Burger, dated 4-3-25, identically captioned.

DETAILS:

After repeated conferences with First Assistant State Attorney General King, especially assigned in the prosecution of Osage Indian murders, the developments are that the convening of a court of inquiry, definitely decided as a medium by which the state intends to proceed, remains indefinite.

Evidence developed by agents of this Bureau is admitted by Attorney General King as sufficient, in his judgment, to warrant the filing of murder charges against at least one defendant; i.e. BRYAN BURKHART, and, in the judgment of these agents, is sufficient to pos-

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>W. D. Bolling</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-144	RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 10 1925 A.M.
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: 42	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 Washington; 5-File.	CHECKED OFF: APR 20 1925
ROUTED TO: DIVISION 2		FILE <i>WWS</i>

20 Mr. Tolson, Mr. Egan, Mr. Clegg, Mr. Glavin, Mr. Ladd, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Rosen, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Carson, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Hendon, Mr. Jones, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Nease, Mr. Gurnea, Mr. Harbo, Mr. Mohr, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Nease, Mr. Gurnea, Mr. Harbo, Mr. Mohr, Mr. Pennington

sibly warrant the filing of conspiracy to murder against other defendants.

Without Government jurisdiction, and the remoteness of the convening of a court of competent jurisdiction by the state, through which witnesses could be placed on record and actual prosecution begun, renders further investigation futile. This investigation will therefore stand closed, pending reopening by the state of Oklahoma.

The following communication was brought about by these agents, after advising Mr. J. Geo. Wright, Superintendent, Osage Indian Service, of the attitude of the State Attorney General's Department with respect to the Government furnishing a prosecutor to assist the state in the prosecution of cases involved to a conclusion.

Copy of letter from Mr. J. Geo. Wright, Superintendent, Osage Indian Agency, Pawhuska, Oklahoma, addressed to Hon. George Short, Attorney General, Oklahoma City, Okla., under date of April 4, 1925 as follows:

"I understand your Department has under consideration the matter of directing the holding of a court of inquiry here concerning certain matters which affect some of the Osage Indians and which are under the jurisdiction of the State Courts. I am extremely anxious, not only by reason of the Indians involved, but on account of the moral welfare of this county, that all circumstances in connection therewith be thoroughly investigated, and desire to render your Department any assistance and cooperation possible, should such inquiry be held.

This office has been instrumental in causing some investigation to be made, and it has occurred to me that possibly Judge J. M. Humphreys, an attorney at present employed by the Government in connection with this office, might be of assistance, and if agreeable, I will be glad to direct that he report to such person as you may indicate for the purpose of rendering any assistance and cooperation desired, not only in any proposed court of inquiry, but also thereafter in any prosecution your Department may deem appropriate.

Will you kindly advise me in order that Mr. Humphreys may be given proper instructions."

Notes by Agent Smith:

Soon after being assigned on this investigation, unauthentic rumors were spread to effect that Department Agent previously assigned had been paid the sum of twenty five thousand dollars to discontinue further investigation of Indian murders by the Hale-Burkhart faction, and last but not least, and unquestionably emanating from the same source, is another unauthentic report to the effect that Agent in Charge Bolling has been paid fifty thousand dollars to discontinue further investigation of these cases. The ridiculousness of such propaganda, in this agent's judgment, does not warrant further comment, other than to advise the Department of the methods resorted to by the unscrupulous murderers of Osage Indians, and for their purpose of keeping up their intimidations of the populace by leaving the impression that their vast wealth renders them immune from prosecution.

INVESTIGATION CLOSED.

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Department of Justice,

Bureau of Investigation.

P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
April 7, 1925.

APR 10 1925

62-5033 APR 20 1925

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

Attention - #2

RECORDED & INDEXED

Re: OSAGE INDIAN MURDER CASES.

Dear Sir:

62-5033-14	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 10 1925	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	150

I am enclosing herewith report on the
Osage Indian Murder cases, captioned, 'Bryan Burkhart
et al'.

The Honorable Barry King, Assistant Attor-
ney General for the State of Oklahoma agrees with this
Agent that sufficient evidence has been developed by
Agents of this Bureau to warrant the prosecution of at
least one man for the murder of an Osage Indian, and that
possibly a conspiracy charge could be instituted against
others.

Mr. King also agrees that unless we can get
into court in these cases, it will be useless to continue
the investigation.

The prosecution of this case rests with the
County Attorney of Osage County, who is elected by the
people and charged with the duty of prosecuting crimes.
There is, however, very little likelihood that any prosecu-
ting attorney will be elected in Osage County that will
institute proceedings against the perpetrators of these
murders. This, of course, will necessitate the Attorney
General of the State of Oklahoma, taking the initiative of
the prosecution, and he is very reluctant to do this.

Mr. King stated frankly that he was desirous
of prosecuting this case, but that he would not undertake
the prosecution on his own account. He agreed that if the

John R. Ridgely, Jr. answered
4/18/25

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11 -2- Director
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14 Government, whom he considered morally - if not legally
15 obligated to prosecute the murderers of these Osage
16 Indians, would furnish an attorney to assist in the pro-
17 secution that he would call a Court of Inquiry or a
18 Special Grand Jury to get these cases in court, but he
19 would not file information charging murder until some
20 court record was had to their evidence.
21

22 After Agent Smith succeeded in having the Indian
23 Department furnish an attorney to assist the state in the
24 prosecution of these cases, Mr. King has found further
25 reasons for delaying court procedure, and I doubt at this
26 time if any Court of Inquiry will be called this year.
27

28 Osage County is a lawless community and is largely
29 dominated by the Hale Burkhart faction, in so far as con-
30 cerns state law violations. These factions are wealthy and
31 the state officers depend greatly upon them for their sup-
32 port. Any move the Attorney General would make in this
33 County would probably create friction between the state and
34 county officials.
35

36 The witnesses in these murder cases have been inter-
37 viewed and re-interviewed by Agents of this Department, and
38 by private detectives and state investigators, and I see no
39 need of further interviewing them, unless the case against
40 principals can be brought to court.
41

42 I have, therefore, instructed Agent Smith to return
43 to his headquarters at Dallas, Texas, where he is badly needed
44 on some important investigations, and Agent Burger to return
45 to his headquarters at Kansas City, Missouri, where he is also
46 badly needed on some important investigations. Until I am
47 instructed by you to reopen this case, will consider it as
48 closed.
49

50 I do not believe that you will hear from the state
51 authorities on this case, nor do I believe that they would attempt
52 to shift the responsibility of the prosecution of this case
53 on the Government by giving out interviews to the press. The
54 case will no doubt be referred to you from time to time by the
55 Interior Department, and possibly some of the Senators, who are
56 interested in having the case prosecuted, but as heretofore
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3-Director

stated, the case has been investigated to such an extent that prosecution is possible, and responsibility rests solely with the state and county officials.

There are a number of people in Osage County and vicinity, who desire to keep this case agitated and not desirous of having it prosecuted. There will, from time to time, be an attempt to spread propaganda to show the powerful influence exerted by the Hale Burkhart faction. This, no doubt, will be only to impress the lawless element, who look to this faction for protection. I do not believe that this faction has any influence except with the local county officials, who apparently are incompetent.

I am advising J. George Wright, Superintendent of the Osage Indian Agency, that the matter of prosecution rests with the state and as soon as they are ready for prosecution they will confer with him.

Would like to have an expression from you as to whether this matter of closing this case meets with your approval.

Respectfully,

W. D. Bolling,
Special Agent in Charge.

WDB/gh-

From
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To
OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General.....☐
General Holland.....☐
General Willebrandt.....☐
General Donovan.....☐
Mr. Martin.....☐
Mr. Strong.....☐
Mr. Stewart.....☐
Mrs. Rishel.....☐
Assistant Director.....☐
Mr. Baughman.....☐
Mr. Cunningham.....☐
Bureau Filing Section.....☐
Personnel Filing Section.....☐
Miss Gandy.....☐
Mr. Grimes.....☐
Mr. Keep.....☐
Mr. McKean.....☐
Mr. Boddie.....☐
.....☐
.....☐

How about this

4/2/25

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Handwritten initials

RECEIVED

WFO:GA
12-033

APR 20 1925

RECORDED & INDEXED

April 18, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RIDGELY

Re: OSAGE INDIAN MURDER CASES

Further with regard to this matter, I am
enclosing herewith copies of a letter and report
recently received from our Oklahoma City office.

Very truly yours,

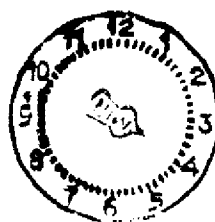
Director.

Encl. 31753.

From
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

- Attorney General ☐
- General Holland ☐
- General Willebrandt ☐
- General Donovan ☐
- Mr. Martin ☐
- Mr. Strong ☐
- Mr. Stewart ☐
- Mrs. Rishel ☐
- Assistant Director ☐
- Mr. Baughman ☐
- Mr. Boddie ☐
- Bureau Filing Section ☐
- Mr. Cunningham ☐
- Miss Gandy ☐
- Mr. Grimes ☐
- Mr. Keep ☐
- Mr. McKean ☐
- Personnel Filing Section ☐
- ☐
- ☐



APR 10 1935

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April 9, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RUGGLEY

Further with regard to the OSAGE INDIAN
MURDER CASES. Enclosing herewith copies of
a very interesting letter and report just received
from our Oklahoma City office.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 57398.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-145

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 9 1925 P.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

WES:GA
62-5033

61809

April 9, 1925.

Hon. Charles M. Burke,
Commissioner,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

62-5033

Dear Sir:-

Further with regard to the CEASE INDIAN
MURDER CASES, I am enclosing herewith for your informa-
tion copy of an interesting report just received from
our Oklahoma City office.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 57882.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-146

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 10 1925 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

April 16, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CRIMES.

The secretary to Senator Pine called me by telephone and stated that a Mrs. Kenny of Oklahoma, who has considerable knowledge concerning the Osage Indian murders and who, I believe, was indicted and convicted of murdering her husband, is in Washington. It seems that the secretary to Senator Pine defended Mrs. Kenny in this matter.

The secretary called to inquire whether we were still interested in the Osage matter and I told him that we were and he said that he would call sometime this week to make an appointment for Mrs. Kenny to come to the Bureau of Investigation for an interview.

I wish that you would fully familiarize yourself with the details of this matter so that when Mrs. Kenny calls I may be able to refer her to you for the interview.

Very truly yours,

Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-147

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 17 1925	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

From
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General ☐

General Holland ☐

General Willebrandt ☐

General Donovan ☐

Mr. Martin ☐

Mr. Strong ☐

Mr. Stewart ☐

Mrs. Rishel ☐

Assistant Director ☐

Mr. Baughman ☐

Mr. Boddie ☐

Bureau Filing Section ☐

Mr. Cunningham ☐

Miss Gandy ☐

Mr. Grimes ☐

Mr. Keep ☐

Mr. McKean ☐

Personnel Filing Section ☐

..... ☐

..... ☐

*Have these
filed in Osage
Indian file.*

*fldt
5/6/25*

62-5033

From

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General ☐
General Holland ☐
General Willebrandt ☐
General Donovan ☐
Mr. Martin ☐
Mr. Strong ☐
Mr. Stewart ☐
Mrs. Rishel ☐
Assistant Director ☐
Mr. Baughman ☐
Mr. Boddie ☐
Bureau Filing Section ☐
Mr. Cunningham ☐
Miss Gandy ☐
Mr. Grimes ☐
Mr. Keep ☐
Mr. McKean ☐
Personnel Filing Section ☐
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..... ☐

62-5032

Mr. Hoover says file with

Osage papers.

HWG

5-20-25.



MAY 23 1925

Dr. Arthur Warren Waite was a

INDIAN PROBE

Federal Officials Review Osage Murder Evidence

Evidence uncovered by special agents of the department of justice in their probe of the huge "murder conspiracy" plot known to underlie at least six Osage murders and several mysterious deaths was being reviewed at Washington Friday.

John E. Hoover, head of the bureau of investigation, and Special Agent Bolling, in charge of the Oklahoma City office, are seeking to determine if any federal statutes have been violated.

If any basis can be found warranting federal indictments the evidence will be presented to the federal grand jury, Hoover stated.

Bolling went to Washington for the purpose of getting acquainted with new administrative methods and in accordance with Hoover's idea that every agent in charge of a regional office should come to Washington at least twice a year.

CANADA WHEAT UP

U. S. PUSHES OSAGE "TERROR" PROBE

Federal probe of the Osage "reign of terror" is continuing unabated. John E. Hoover, head of the U. S. bureau of investigation, announced Monday.

"We already have accumulated sufficient evidence to warrant a thorough grand jury investigation," Hoover declared in dispatches from Washington.

This grand jury investigation will probably open in Oklahoma City March 23.

Denies Probe Dropped

Hoover denied that there had ever been any letup in the investigation since it opened early in January. To the contrary it has steadily been broadened until agents from half a dozen districts are now at work on the case, he indicated.

"If politics stop the investigation at any time," Hoover averred, "the department of justice will make a public announcement to show the people of Oklahoma just what motives are behind the stopping of the grand jury action."

The federal investigation is being confined to nine major cases, including six murders and three "sudden and unexplained deaths," Hoover said.

These Murders Probed

These murder cases include the slayings of Anna Brown, Charles Whitehorse and Henry Roan, all found shot thru the head in 1921, and the dynamiting of the home of W. E. Smith, which resulted in the deaths of Smith, his wife, Rita, a full-blood Osage, and a white domestic, Martha Brookshire.

The "sudden deaths" include the following cases:

Anna Sanford, wealthy full-blood, died near Pawhuska in March, 1923. Her death was never completely explained.

Minnie Kile, full-blood, died near Pawhuska, in 1922.

Joe Grayhorse died suddenly in 1921 following a large land deal.

Hoover said Monday, "A significant fact is that Anna Brown,

Minnie Kile and Rita Smith were all sisters. They were the daughters of Lizzie Q. Brown, who also died suddenly."

The mother's death may have been caused by old age.

The bureau is also investigating the mysterious dynamiting of Ruth Tallchief's tomb in 1923.

CROWE CALLS WITNESSES

Shepherd May Be Formally Charged With Murder

By United Press
CHICAGO, March 14.—State's Attorney Robert E. Crowe today summoned four witnesses to testify before the county grand jury in an attempt to indict William D. Shepherd on charges that he was responsible for the death of Billy McClintock, "millionaire orphan."

"We have sufficient evidence to warrant an indictment," Crowe asserted. "If things go as I expect, Shepherd will be charged formally with murder."

Shepherd, who was young McClintock's foster father, received the bulk of the boy's \$1,000,000 estate, the only other beneficiary being Isabelle Pope, beautiful society girl whom McClintock planned to marry before his death.

Crowe's Witnesses

Crowe has chosen as his most important witnesses:

John P. Marchand, who will testify that he interviewed Shepherd concerning a course in bacteriology at the National University of Science.

Dr. C. C. Fairman, president of the university, who will testify that Shepherd enrolled in the school and studied germs for a week and that after he left the school three tubes of germs (one of them containing typhus bacilli) disappeared from the

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17 April 18, 1925.
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Mr. W. D. Bolling,
P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to your letter of the 7th
further with regard to the OS 22 INDIAN MURDER CASES.

Your action in closing this matter at least for the
present is approved.

Very truly yours,

Director.

62-5033-148

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-148

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 20 1925 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

#

April 18, 1925.

Hon. Charles H. Burke,
Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Further with regard to the OSAGE INDIAN
MURDER CASES, I am enclosing herewith copy of a report
submitted by Agent Smith, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, under
date of the 8th instant relative thereto.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 51734.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-149
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 20 1925 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WWG:0

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

April 15, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Further with regard to the OSAGE INDIAN matter, I have talked with Mr. Ramsey and find that the case was referred to Assistant Attorney General Wells for determination of the Indian Lands policy, which may have been involved. At Mr. Wells' office I find that Mr. Brown, attorney, already has left for Oklahoma and that he is to look into the case from the standpoint of Indian Lands and Federal rights, the purpose being to determine for the Department as a whole the question of jurisdiction.

Mr. Brown is due in Oklahoma within the next two days, and my understanding is that he will confer with the State officials as well as the Federal officers and include in his opinion a statement as to the advisability of assigning Federal counsel.

Respectfully,

MM

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-150
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 24 1925 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. One FILE

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62-5083-150

April 23, 1925.

Mr. W. D. Bolling,

P. O. Box 125,

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Further with regard to the OSAGE INDIAN cases,

Mr. Frank Brown, of the office of Assistant Attorney

General Wells here, has been sent to Oklahoma in con-

nection with Indian Land matters generally, and has been

instructed to take up the Osage Indian cases generally,

with a view to determining jurisdiction and the advisa-

bility of further action on the part of the Government.

He will communicate with you before leaving the
State.

Very truly yours,

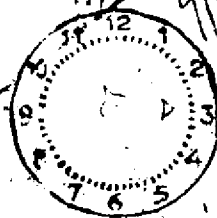
Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

From
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General ☐ *See memo.*
General Holland ☐
General Willebrandt ☐
General Donovan ☐
Mr. Martin ☐
Mr. Strong ☐
Mr. Stewart ☐
Mrs. Rishel ☐
Assistant Director ☐
Mr. Baughman ☐
Mr. Boddie ☐
Bureau Filing Section ☐
Mr. Cunningham ☐ *hft*
Miss Gandy ☐
Mr. Grimes ☐
Mr. Keep ☐
Mr. McKean ☐
Personnel Filing Section ☐
..... ☐
..... ☐



APR 16 1925

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

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

April 22, 1925.

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

62-5033-151
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 25 1925
RECEIVED
Mr. Tolson

Dear Sir:

Re: Osage Indian Murder Cases.

Mr. A. W. Comstock, of Pawhuska, Okla., called at the Bureau Office a few days ago, greatly excited on account of the Bureau apparently discontinuing the investigation on the Osage Indian Murder Cases.

Mr. Comstock stated that he had recently had occasion to threaten one [redacted] who was an informant of former Agent Weiss on these cases, and that he greatly feared that [redacted] would cause him trouble.

I informed Mr. Comstock that the next step in the prosecution of the Osage Indian Murder Cases would probably be started by the state officers. However, he is apparently not satisfied, unless Agent Burger, or some other agent of similar abilities, is kept continuously on the case.

This is written merely for your information. No doubt, Mr. Comstock will take this matter up with you through Senator Curtis, and another effort will be made to keep this case agitated, and state prosecution delayed.

As the case now stands, I do not see where further interviewing of witnesses would be of any advantage. Until some complaints are filed by the state authorities, or some court proceedings instituted, there is nothing further to do. The local Indians of Osage County will probably discontinue contributing funds to parties interested in keeping this case agitated, unless an agent of this Bureau is kept on the field. However, I believe, until the state takes some legal action, that further agitation by agents of this Bureau would be harmful, instead of an advantage.

Respectfully,

W. D. Belling

Special Agent in Charge.

WDB:H.

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

April 22, 1925. *6/806*

Mr. Eustace Smith,
Special Assistant to the
Attorney General,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

Re: Osage Indian Murder Cases.

Your telegram of April 20, 1925 to Frank
S. Smith, Ft. Worth, Texas, requesting that he
mail copy of investigative reports in the Osage
Indian murder cases to Special Assistant to the
Attorney General, Mr. Edwin Brown, Troy, Kansas,
has been received at this office.

Case has been closed by this office,
as the state authorities insti-
tute proceedings. I would suggest, if you
are securing copies of reports, that
you forward them to Hon. J. E. Hoover, Director,
Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

Respectfully,

W. L. Rilling,
Attorney in Charge.

RECORDED & INDEXED

5033-152

INVESTIGATION

MAY 5 - 1925

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General ☐
General Holland ☐
General Willebrandt ☐
General Donovan ☐
Mr. Martin ☐
Mr. Strong ☐
Mr. Stewart ☐
Mrs. Rishel ☐
Assistant Director ☐
Mr. Baughman ☐
Mr. Boddie ☐
Bureau Filing Section ☐
Mr. Cunningham ☐
Miss Gandy ☐
Mr. Grimes ☐
Mr. Keep ☐
Mr. McKean ☐
Personnel Filing Section ☐
..... ☐
..... ☐

61807

OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[Handwritten signature]

June 4, 1935.

Sen. Charles McNair,
United States Senator,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

Thank you very much for the letter transmitted
by you from Mr. LeRoy J. Leachman, 1453 Barnes Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri, with enclosure.

I have read same with considerable interest and
am arranging to have an Agent interview Mr. Leachman and
secure from him whatever facts or data may be in his
possession.

With best regards and every good wish, I am

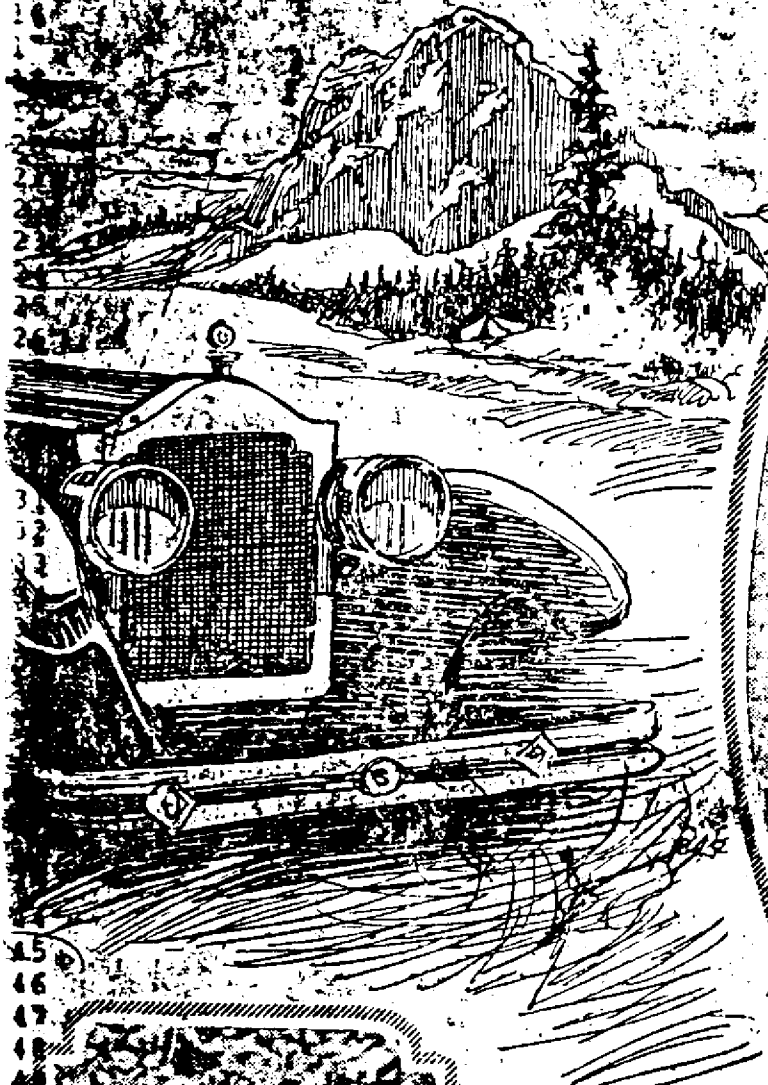
Yours very truly,

Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

ERS OF RICH INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA

Trade Raiders Seek to Drive Indians From Oil Lands



62-5033-153

John Kenney's white wife, who has offered \$10,000 reward for information in the arrest of those responsible for the Osage murders.

He can walk the streets of Pawhuska, brazenly, confident that the terrified redskins will not appear as witnesses against him. "It ain't healthy to testify" in Osage County.

Finding themselves in this situation, the Osages, still callidike and usually uneducated, have recourse to their superstitions. They believe their white enemies are under a curse.

that they really controlled ten Indians groups of guardians would sell the each other. In this way they kept ex in their own hands.

A group in Pawhuska decided to and me because of had been picka for them. What is to be done today

murdered them, and he will
silence. Take him to the
field with no cover for eav-
droping; make
path to hills that the name of this news will
never be disclosed; and still he will say noth-
ing. "No, no," mumbles, "I do, me be
silent." The awe of the Terror is upon him.
You know from his face, pale to the color
of buckskin, that he believes the ear of the
Terror is between him and you.

The Little Father in Washington—Meestair
Caldwell—has sent men to the Osage Country
to protect his red brothers from the Terror.
J. Berry King, a great chief—(Assistant
State's Attorney-General) has held a court of
inquiry in Osage County. Eustice Smith, an-
other white chief, has made investigations.
But the Indians fear to tell them what they
know. Witnesses summoned to hearings dis-
appear overnight and cannot be found. If
cornered and questioned they evade. The
name of the Evil Spirit is upon the Osages,
they say, and it is not wise to talk.

The Osage Outrages

The Osages are a sadly demoralized tribe.
Their wealth, which amounts to virtually a
millionaire's annual income for each member
of the tribe, no longer gives them courage.
Was not Roan Horse found dead, seated at
the wheel of his Packard one sad evening?
A bullet had crashed through the windshield
and into Roan's temple. And did not George
Bigheart die frothing at the mouth from a
mysterious poison in an Oklahoma City hos-
pital, for all his motor cars and fine clothes?
Two parties of Indians, one riding in a Cadil-
lac and the other in a Pierce-Arrow, stopped
their cars on railroad tracks and were killed
by trains. The hand of the Terror stopped
their engines, say the Osage tribesmen. Fur-
thermore, what good did Reta Smith's fine
house do her? She was
charge of dynamite planted beneath the
house.

Osage County is dark and bloody ground. It
lies north-east of Guthrie. The county seat is
Pawhuska, surrounded by territory four times
as large as the State of Delaware. When
murder is done in Oklahoma and the murder-
er flees, the newspapers report as a matter of
course, "He has taken to the Osage Hills."
When Sheriffs cannot find their man they
say, "He is hiding in the Osage Hills," as if
that were sufficient explanation. Osage Coun-
ty is a refuge for every desperado and
Lan. In its woods and hills, murders are

Osage, surrounded by bad
the horror of a murderous
and leaves no trail, terrifi-
that he may be the next one marked, is loath
to talk. Families have buried their dead
and said nothing. Relatives have seen their
loved ones murdered and have declared they
died natural deaths.

The murders on record, it seems safe to
state, do not complete the total outrage. The
list which follows is fragmentary.

Roan Horse, also called Henry Roan, full-
blooded Osage, found shot to death in his au-
tomobile in February, 1923.

Reta Smith, wife of a white man, who was
blown to pieces when a dynamite charge ex-
ploded under her house, March 10, 1923. Her
husband, William, and a white servant also
were killed.

Joe Yellow Horse, toppled over dead after
frothing at the mouth from some strange poi-
son in April, 1923.

Alfred McKinley, found suffering from a
fractured skull and died, unable to tell who
had hit him.

Billy Stepson, famous Osage roper, died
after a sudden illness from poison.

Anna Brown, found shot through the head
in a clump of brush, May 21, 1921.

Lizzie Q., mother of Anna Brown, poisoned.
Nina Smith, Indian wife of a white man,
poisoned.

George Bigheart, died in Oklahoma City,
June 29, 1923, from poisoning.

Charles Whitecorn, killed just outside
Pawhuska, date unknown.

The strangest murder of all was the taking
off of Judge W. W. Vaughan of Pawhuska,
who had acted as an attorney for the Indians.
He was a white man. Vaughan had represent-
ed George Bigheart and was summoned to his
client's deathbed. Bigheart, it is believed,
told him who had plotted several of the mur-
ders. Anyway, Vaughan left Oklahoma City
hastily for Pawhuska after Bigheart's death.
Between the two places he was taken from his
Pullman berth on a Katy train and murdered.
His body was found beside the tracks next
morning. Police supposed that the murderers
had trailed Vaughan from the hospital and
had captured his guide to stop him from
talking.

Detectives' Theories

Now, the Government detectives have not
been slow in developing theories to explain
the murders, though no important arrests
are yet on record. The secret of the reign
of terror in the Osage is contained in one
word: "Headrights," these investigators as-
sert.

The headright was about in value as
dear as the Osage's land and a white man

Pawhuska, Fortaker, Homie
Heart. Whites were allowed
hold property in these low
country of Osages and advent
for exploit the Indians' rush
and settled.

Then oil was found. Imme-
diately declared all of the
the Indians, and in 1906
went into effect. The
equally small. The
whose name was on the
The individual Indian's
munal oil holdings of the
was called his headright
was made hereditary and it
thorized to collect and use,
queathing it to his heirs.
These headrights became ve-
as members of families died
ed more than one headright
today receive the income fr
headrights.

The Indians murdered we-
headrights, argue Governme

Such a theory leads to
conclusions. Either the in-
dorsed by members of their
hoped to profit by their deat
itance of headrights, or the
by white settlers who owne
to the land on which their
mineral rights. Perhaps
are true, some of the murde
by the first motive, others b
tive.

In the Osage country, b
men and officials not afraid
feel that all blame for the
must be placed on white se
talk of a secret cabal amo
white traders which has
crimes. It is said that the
determined to drive the O-
lands through terrorism. Th
is to so frighten the Indi
ask the Government to move
Then, when the Osage oil
the oil wealth will revert to
surface rights of land in O
the Indians are driven off
buy up or homestead the su
wresting in time this vast
Osage owners. Millions
there are many desperate ro
bills.

Each headright now bring
000 a year. Through accu-
itance many Indian families
or \$60,000 a year. What
committed by white men
rich gain was the certain

A White Bad

The Indian view point of
ferreted out, is blazie in
far only one person has da
white woman
the Osage's land and a white man

GOVERNMENT IS PROBING

White Wife of "Millionaire" Osage Dec

John Kenney Has Of-

fest of "Terrorist Ring"

which She Believes Has Perpetrated All the Outrages — Tells Blood-Curdling Story of Occult Trickeries Practiced on Simple Red Men — Government Detectives Go Into the Osage Hills to Ferret Out the Mystery.

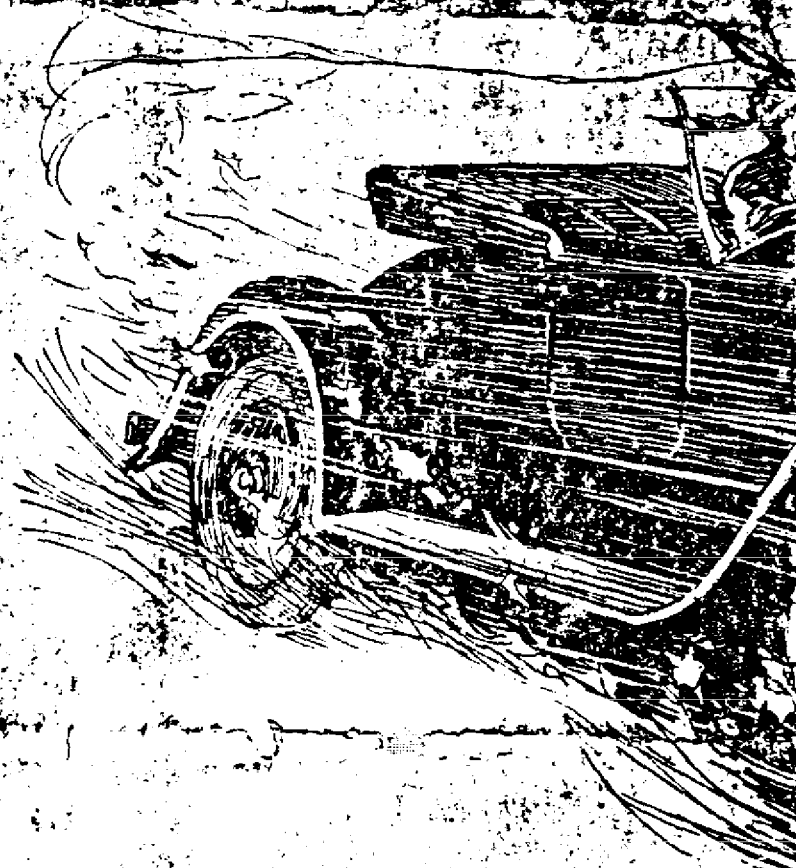
By a Special Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch.

GUTHRIE, Ok., May 9.

The number of murders is nine, but some say more. The number of victims is as to the number of millions. The number of victims is as to the number of millions. The number of victims is as to the number of millions.

Those Government detectives who have gone into the Osage hills know now, if they did not dream before, how great is their task. Were nine Indians or 22 murdered? And did it stop there? Many an Osage has fled this strange region of scrub timber and oil derricks, crossing himself, and vowing that a hundred of his brothers and sisters died in the reign of terror. Such fugitives usually have ended by getting drunk, in which case they are ready to say that not 100 but 200 Indians of the richest tribe in the world have been murdered.

But ask an Indian, drunk or sober, to tell you why the Osages were murdered and who murdered them, and he will cringe in terrified silence. Take him to the middle of a field with no one about, and he will tell you that the Osages were murdered by a "terrorist ring" which he believes has perpetrated all the outrages.



smoke. Killers, bank robbers and absconders hold rendezvous in the Osage hills.

"Don't go poking about up there," one is warned at Guthrie. "It isn't a safe country."

The Murders

For a year now Government agents have been at work in Osage County. Yet they have made few arrests and no indictments have been announced. Small wonder that the Osage, surrounded by bad men, haunted by the memory of the murders, and that strange night

to Oklahoma. Osage County the Indians, the tribe the fullbloods. Each Indian right to 640 acres of the rights of Osage County property of the tribe before the discovery of oil the land was seemed valuable. The mineral rights were in the tribe until 1906.

The white man entered through decision of the lot five quarters of 160 acres. On these locations sites. On these locations sites. On these locations sites. On these locations sites.



football game held in St. Louis for the past 20 years Doc Dillon had been conspicuous, howling and waving his arms until he was red in the face—his eyes were sometimes red from another stimulant—and cutting capers on the side lines. He was a charming fellow on the football field. But off it, he was usually trying.

Strangers who saw the "Doc" in action at football games or hotel dances were always forcibly struck by his behavior and as a rule wanted to know his name. "That's Doc Dillon," they were told. "A great cut-up, the Doc, especially when he's drinking." If the subject was pursued further the informant generally added that Dillon came from an old and respected St. Louis family and had been educated at St. Louis University. Pride of family or training evidently on the Doc's mind, and he much preferred to boast "I'm hard" than to refer to the respect shown the Dillon name.

This is not to say that the police or anyone else believed some man whom the Doctor had slapped on the back heartily, or made the butt of some coarse prank had killed him. His drinking and his bragging and his bullying could be avoided.

The Doctor had more subtle expressions of personality. He had been charged with shady medical practice. Police brought him to book in two malpractice cases, one of which resulted fatally. However, he was not even tried in either instance. It had been whispered, too, that the Doctor dealt in liquors for his friends. The police were warmer here. Bootlegging and blackmail, perhaps? But few believed he had been killed for such reasons as those.

Women? Ah! The Doctor was 46 years old, divorced, and fond of the company of the ladies. His popularity with women had been a paradox which puzzled and amazed his friends. He had a way with him where women were concerned quite different from his treatment of men. With men he was brutally candid, loud-voiced, fond of bragging. With women he was another person altogether. One saw him handing them about in gentle, almost fawning, fashion. He who lived in the company of men, trod softly where women were concerned. In his profession, in sport and in play, his methods were direct, almost brutally violent. But when it came to women he was a different man.

The public knew her only as the wife of late Herman C. C. Layton, a well-known medicine manufacturer, who had given her \$10,000. Miss Addie readily admitted she had been with Dr. Dillon on the evening of the murder. She said they had attended picture show on Grand boulevard before from 7 p. m. until about 10 p. m. She had taken a bus on Lincoln street toward. She left him at her home and continued on the bus, saying he would go to his hotel, four blocks away.

"I'll Kill You"

That brought the investigators to the Front Hotel. Here Miss Lynn, the operator, ready to state that Dr. Dillon had come about 9:30 or 10 and had left after receiving telephone message. From what number the message came she did not know. She had traced it. She had not listened in that evening. But—

"A man has several times threatened kill Dr. Dillon," the girl told her eager questioners.

Miss Lynn declared that on Wednesday night, the night before the murder, a man had called Dr. Dillon and had left Cabany telephone number with the request that Miss Lynn ask the doctor to call at he came in. This the doctor did and, according to Miss Lynn, the following conversation ensued:

Dr. Dillon: If you come between Mary and me I'll kill you.

The Other Man: If you go near her I'll get you.

Dr. Dillon: I've got a date with her tonight. What do you think of that?

Other Man: Well, you'll never keep.

Dr. Dillon: I'll grab a taxi and come out to Clayton and see you on that.

A bellboy corroborated Miss Lynn's statement in part, claiming to have observed portion of the doctor's statement while he in and out of the room on an errand. Lynn said further that she had kept the door open that the man who had threatened Dr. Dillon had called and that this same man had called the doctor on the telephone and also called her during the evening.

body was found.
time of the shooting as about 11
having observed all details of the
police passed temporarily from the
when and how
And why?
questions that engrossed a
detectives scurrying.
called police naturally
Dr. Dillon had not most
gold watch roughly and stamped about in the com
company of men, trod softly where women were
concerned. In his profession, in sport and in
play, his methods were direct, almost
brutally violent. But when it came to women
he was a different man.

ATCH

STORIES

May 10, 1925

PAGES 23-30

44-Irate Husband? A Petty Blackmailer?

Distinguished Family, Searched for Clews

DR. WILLIAM A. DILLON.



Miss Eleanor Lynn, telephone operator who overheard conversations.

to place murder at the end of those devious ways he had followed with women.

"Was he killed because of a woman?" the police asked.

The answer was given by the woman.

...have been an urgent one. No one knows the time of his departure, but it probably was soon after he had come in. An urgent call.

The next morning, Edward Hilderbrand, a janitor, at the Washington University gymnasium saw, upon arriving for work at 6:30 o'clock, a man lying on the cinder track which circles Francis Field.

"Some fool did," he said to himself. "Hasn't he got up early and put on his sweat clothes to go for some running and has gone to sleep before started."

The Murder Scene

But on nearer approach he realized it was a student who lay there. No sleeper. The man was dead.

When St. Louis County Deputy Sheriffs and city detectives arrived persons in the crowd pointed out the body had identified it.

"That's Doc Dillon," said a man who knew him well. "What was he doing out here on running track? The Doc was a great athlete in his day, but he gave that up long ago." The body was examined. It lay face upward, the head resting in a pool of blood. One hand was in the pocket of his topcoat, the other was thrown upward toward the face, fingers half clenched. There were no marks of struggle in the cinders about or on the clothing. The doctor's eyeglasses were still on his nose. His shoes were shiny, his white shirt clean, his cravat in place. The legs were bent as if he had slowly crumpled to the ground.

He had been shot twice. One bullet had entered the right ear and ranged upward through the brain. Another had struck him in the left knee. Seeing the location of these

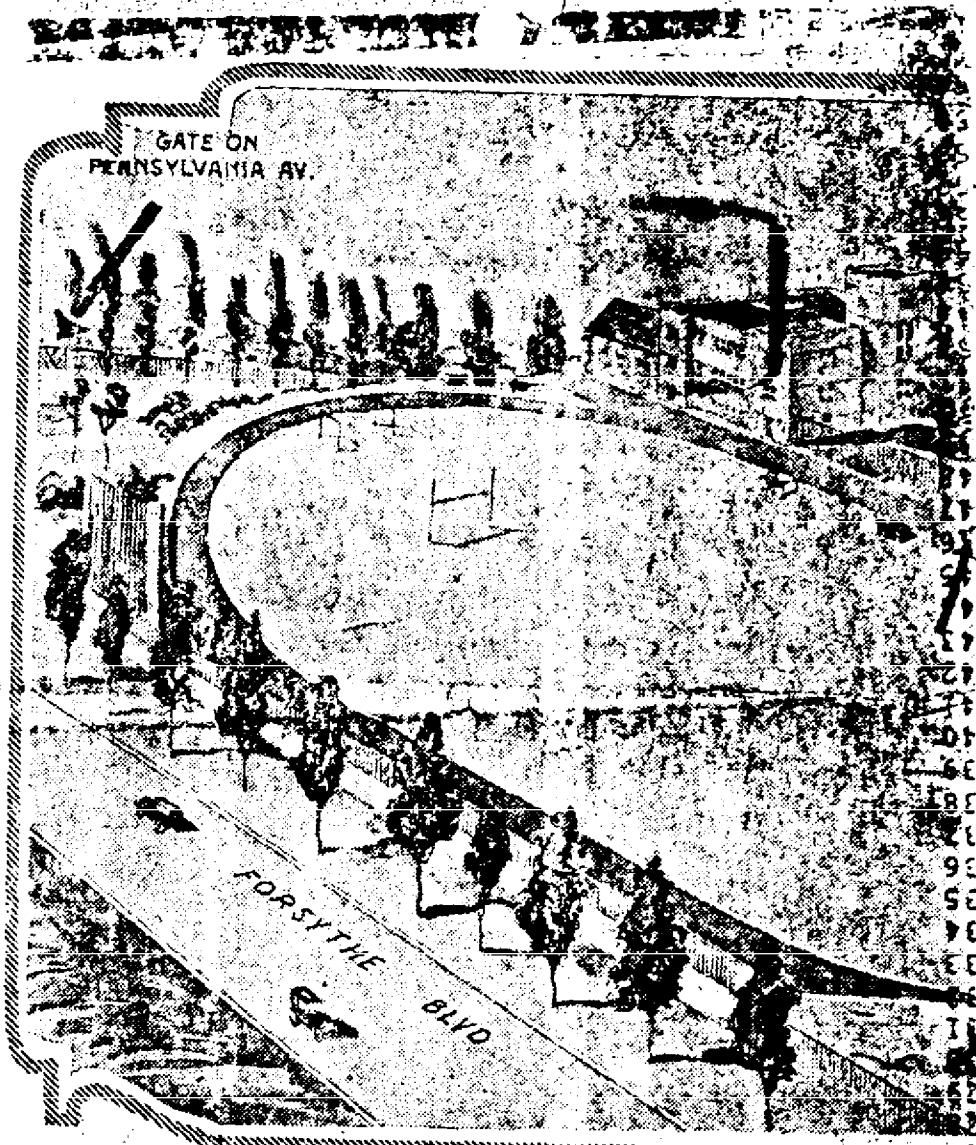
wounds, detectives searched for a revolver or knife. There was none, only a .38-caliber pocket knife which lay near the body. Physicians who examined the body said the wounds did not have been self-inflicted except by some contortion of the arm and back.

Doc Dillon had been murdered.

The scene was as secluded as could have been chosen within a settled portion of the city.

The body lay a block in each direction at the corner of a building occupied at night. Francis Field is bounded on the north by a concrete wall and stands which backs against Forsythe street and cuts off all view and many of the buildings in this stretch of Forsythe street.

On the south side of the field there is Pennsylvania avenue and on the east, a badly paved street. The field is shut off from the street by an iron-picketed fence grown with vines and backed by a row of poplars. A single arc light at the corner of Forsythe



Sketch in Perspective of Francis Field of Washington University

unfastened, due to negligence of a caretaker. A deserted prospect, then. But on the night of the murder there were passersby and there were a few who heard things. Ted Uelk, who lives at 7011 Lindell boulevard, said that he was returning to his home from a meeting at 10:55 p. m., when he saw an automobile standing in front of the west gate to Francis Field. The car was facing north on Pennsylvania avenue and its lights were burning.

Uelk said he entered his house and went upstairs to bed. While he was undressing he heard three sounds like shots or backfiring from an automobile. He went to a window commanding a view of the west gate of the field, 100 yards away, and saw the automobile drive off. He did not make out the number of occupants.

This machine was also observed about 11 o'clock by David Fehndrich, a fireman employed at Washington University. He drove by it in his own car on his way to work and says he saw three men quarreling, apparently

two of them united against the third. He was hard of hearing and was unable to hear any of the conversation. Nor did he hear any sounds later.

Ed Summers, a night watchman, chauffeur and Russell Holman, who were within a block of the scene at the time they all heard the three shots but who the sounds were from an automobile firing.

Search For a Motive

The body lay on the cinder track at the corner of the gymnasium, on the east side of the field and at the center of the running track. The body was lying on its back, its head toward the east, its feet toward the west. It had fallen at the 100-yard mark, where the sprinters' precisely on the line. The body was at least 300 yards east of the west gate.

Having gathered sufficient evidence to

WATROUSE

WHO KILLED "DOC" DILLON Boisterous Career of Physician, So

In a Maze of Theories Police Are Agreed on One Point:
That "A Woman Was at the Bottom of It"—Hotel Telephone Girl Says the Doctor Was Threatened Twice by Man in Quarrel Over the Wire About a Woman—Two Women Friends of Dr. Dillon Have Been Questioned, But Threw no Light on the Crime.

Miss Marie Addis with Dr. Dillon who killed.

By FREDERICK H. BRENNAN.

DR. WILLIAM A. DILLON created no comment when he entered the sedate lobby of the Fairmont Hotel, Maryland and Euclid avenues, about 9:30 p. m. April 30. In fact, only an elevator boy and Miss Eleanor Lynn, telephone operator, noticed his

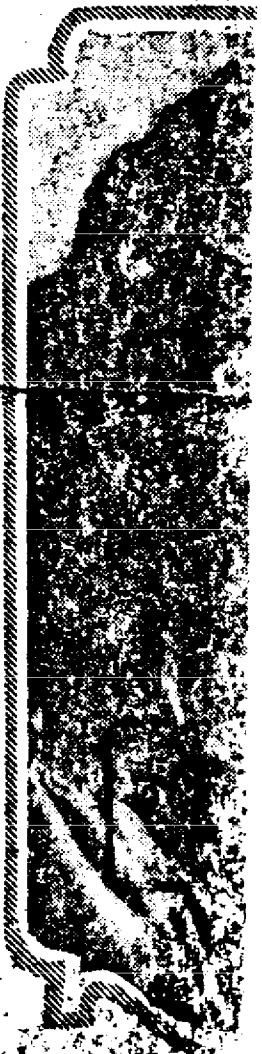
entrance. To Miss Lynn he may have nodded or passed a pleasant word; the Doctor had his gentile side. To the elevator boy he may have flashed a smile, for a hospital porter remembered long, nothing that would indicate he was particularly happy or particularly sad. They saw merely that here was Dr. Dillon back from a short evening out and ready to retire to his room for the night. It would take a business call of urgent nature, apparently, to bring him downstairs again. A guest or so as he passed to the elevator may have eyed him with lazy pleasure, for the Doctor was a handsome man—big, husky, meticulously groomed.

Street sounds closed over the little sur made by his passing feet. The shrieking brakes of an automobile. The dang of a car bell. A newsboy on the corner. In the lounge a man cracked the cover of his magazine. A matron dozed. A girl laughed. It was rather a warm evening. A dull at the Fairmont Hotel, as ever.

Dr. Dillon, the telephone operator, had a "Dr. Dillon? Oh, yeah, he's in. Wait a minute and I'll connect you. There you are!" She did not see the small light before her go out. The Doctor's name came to her mind. "Dr. Dillon?" she called. But this was probably a

and Pennsylvania dispels little of the gloom at night; it is not a corner frequented by loiterers, nor is Pennsylvania a street often chosen by belated wayfarers. The northern and eastern boundaries of the field run into Washington University campus, separated by the high iron fence. The gymnasium, dark at night with only a caretaker who sleeps in an upstairs room, stands at the northwest corner. Other buildings of the university fade into blacker shapes in the darkness. A row of dim lights border the eastern fence line of the field and a walk running parallel to the northern fence line is lighted by electric bulbs here and there.

Sounds Like Shots Heard



hypnotic power. enemies to be vester
whispered among them. They are

Mrs. Kenney's Story

Absorbing the superstitions of her adopted race, Mrs. Kenney has become a firm believer in the occult. She married John in 1909 before he became an oil "millionaire," when he had only his farm in the Osage reservation. He had attended Haskell Indian school and was regarded as one of the more intelligent Indians. She was a Boston girl of French-Canadian descent. Her stipulation at the time of the marriage was that John must go to work. Together they started in on his farm and succeeded in laying up considerable money, so that they were independent before oil was struck. Now they have an income of \$30,000 a year from the two and a fifth head-rights John holds.

"White men in the Osage have hypnotized Indians and are carrying on a reign of terror to drive them from their oil lands," Mrs. Kenney says. "The white men have been given hypnotic suggestions that they should kill their wives and parents have been induced to mistreat their children. Indians have been hypnotized and compelled to drive their automobiles over embankments or to stop on railway crossings. This white terror ring has sold drugs and liquors to my husband's people. I believe doctors and officials are in league with the ring."

Afraid of consequences to John and herself, Mrs. Kenney moved from Pawhuska to Guthrie, which lies outside the Osage territory. The Kennneys now spend most of their time in travel. A 3-year-old adopted daughter is kept in a home in Washington, D. C., because Mrs. Kenney fears the alleged terrorists may strike at her through the child. Her explanation of the Osage outrages is as follows:

"This is the way they worked: In each of the five towns a group of traders and lawyers sprung up who selected certain Indians as their prey. They owned all the officials, for although the Indians had a vote they had no interest in politics. These men had an understanding with each other. They cold-bloodedly said, 'You take So-and-So, So-and-So and So-and-So and I'll take these.' They selected Indians who had full head rights and large farms."

Hypnotism

"Indians know nothing of money, and when the white traders could, they got the Indians to sign notes and leases they didn't understand. They'd keep the Indians drunk, break down their morals and then ask that a guardian be appointed. As soon as a guardian was appointed, he'd put the Indian's land on sale. The law permits a man to act as guardian for only five Indians but these men worked their wives into the game, so

... because I had been making a
... When my brother-in-law was n
... I jumped into the fight and I m
... put on him. I was not a
... normal again.

"These men have become so good in
notism that they don't even have to see
person they hypnotize. They put their
on me when I was working in the
miles away. About ...
but I must have had a strong
spell didn't really work. I had the
the 'finishing touch' in Pawhuska."

"It is a horrible feeling. A dull pain
gins in the back of the head, the lungs
cramped, the heart sounds like wind wh
through telegraph wires, your hands
clumsy and your feet seem like lead.
can't sleep and you'd give anything I
only could."

Her Dilemma

"The 'finishing touch' was put to
Pawhuska. I went there on July 15
to settle the estate of my brother-in-law.
I met a man named Shepherd, who
there was \$650 due him. I had the
to pay him if he could prove his claim.
had a lot of talk and he threatened th
we had a fight and all of us were a
I paid my fine, but Shepherd sued me,
husband for \$11,000 punitive damages."

Mrs. Kenney says she engaged Fr
nolan, an attorney of Guthrie, to defe
self and husband in this case. From
tension between lawyer and client
established a controversy developed.
max came when Mrs. Kenney shot an
ly wounded Tillman on the street in
June 4, 1924.

She was tried on an attempt-to-kill
at Guthrie last December. The ju
for conviction and she was sentence
years in the penitentiary. Her co
pealed and a new trial was grant
will be tried again in September.
cution in her first trial took the
Mrs. Kenney's act was the unreason
burst of a woman crazed by too m
of occult lore. Tillman has declin
cuss the case except to assert that
ney "is mentally irresponsible."

So the shadow of the occult b
Mrs. Kenney, champion of the Os
darkens the whole story of the
past. Those Government detective
gone into the Osage hills to track
facts in a score of mysterious kills
against more than ten dead cleys
pry from frightened Indians with
the Evil Spirit. What will it turn
this Evil Spirit? A group of w
banded in a murder compact?
greedy Osages who have claim the
for the headrights which they d
herit? Or will it be the black t
the Osage scene itself, which in
defeat all attempts to solve the

... full-blooded Osage Indian,
... by the "Terror Ring,"
...
... guilty of these outrages.
... and blood-outraging story of
... Pawhuska; a story credible
... steeped in the atmosphere of
... and the superstitions of
...
... a few places remaining in
... where lawless men can
... The Florida Everglades, the
... of South Dakota, the Tonle Basin
... fugitives from justice. But
... wickedness the Osage coun-
... of Oklahoma is the worst. Its population
... from three classes—reregades
... no law; oil huskies who are indif-
... to law, and Indians whose attitude to-
... is a strange mixture of respect and
... superstition and fear.
... together in a vast region visited
... the short-line railroad with only the
... of five small towns to relieve the
... restraint of hill farm and oil camp
... a Sheriff and a handful of deputies
... order the inhabitants of the Osage
... are at liberty to prey upon each
... Wealth is concentrated in the hands
... the Indians or absentee landlords. It is in-
... table that the whites should be the hunt-
... and the Indians their prey. And what
... there are for villainies! The Indian
... is mulcted may appeal to the Sheriff.
... what then?
... there are treacherous roads, in the Osage
... and trails that have led to many an
... ambush. If an Indian complains, reprisal is
... taken swiftly by the accused. He can hide
... a ravine and pick his accuser off with a
... high-power rifle. He can use dynamite or
... poison. Having slain, the murderer can take
... to the hills. But this usually is unnecessary, men worked their wives into the game, so

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Department of Justice,

Bureau of Investigation.

P. O. Box 125,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
May 14, 1925.

RECORDED

62-5033-13

MAY 25 1925

MAY 18 1925 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Div. 2

Director,
Bureau of Investigation, Attention Division #2.
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

RE: OSAGE INDIAN MURDER CASES.

Dear Sir:

Several days ago J. George Wright, Superintendent of the Osage Indian Agency, Pawhuska, Oklahoma, called this office over long distance telephone and stated that the Indian Department was not satisfied with the status of the investigation of the Osage Indian Murder case, and that a Special Agent should be kept continuously on this investigation.

I explained to him that the prosecution was now up to the state of Oklahoma, or the county authorities, and that all records of the investigation in this office were available for the prosecution.

Mr. Wright stated that someone was in the office and claimed that undue influence had been used to cause the investigators to be pulled off of the case, and I explained very carefully that this office could accomplish nothing further and suggested that he confer with the state authorities in an effort to get the cases prosecuted.

A few days later an item appeared in the "Oklahoma City Times" reporting to be the opinion of this office as to the attitude and policy of the Bureau. I presume that this was put out by the Indian Department or by the state authorities, as it is not my practice to give such interviews to the press, and evidently referred to my conversation with Mr. Wright or a recent conversation with the Attorney General's office. The clipping is enclosed herewith.

I presume that the Indian Department will

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23 take this case up with you again.
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28 Respectfully,
29

30 *W. D. Bolling*
31
32 W. D. Bolling,
33 Special Agent in Charge.
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WDB/gh
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62-5033
155

WHD:GA

CODE

May 22 1925

Scott
Lathrop Bldg
Kansas City Mo

EDWIN BROWN SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DON
KANSAS CITY MONDAY ENROUTE OKLAHOMA ARRANGE HAVE AGENT
BURGER PRESENT FOR CONFERENCE YOUR OFFICE

TOO HOOVER

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-155	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 23 1925 A.M.	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

May 22, 1925.

Mr. W. D. Bolling,

P. O. Box 125,

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edwin Browne, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, is leaving here today enroute to Oklahoma to proceed with the USAGE INDIAN matters in accordance with the plan outlined by the Attorney General here. He will stop off in Kansas City at which point he will have a conference with Agent Burger and he probably will be in Oklahoma City the latter part of next week, and of course will get in touch with you. Needless to say, you are to extend to Mr. Browne every possible assistance and I think you had better arrange to be with him personally, or at least be very easily available.

After he has arrived at Oklahoma City and has conferred with the United States Attorney, he will want the assistance of Agents Frank Smith and J. A. Street from Fort Worth and El Paso, respectively, and as soon as you determine exactly when these men are wanted, I wish you would wire me asking that they be instructed to proceed to Oklahoma.

Very truly yours,

Director.

62-5032-156

RECORDED & INDEXED
MAY 23 1925
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Investigation

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

May 26, 1925.

61803

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice, ATTENTION #2
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: Re: Osage Indian Matters.

This will acknowledge receipt of your
letter of May 22, 1925, initialed WWG-GA, advising
that the Hon. Edwin Browne will shortly be in Okla-
homa City regarding Osage Indian matters.

Your instructions will be followed,
and you will be advised on the arrival of Mr. Browne.

Respectfully,

W. D. Bolling
W. D. Bolling,
Special Agent in Charge.

WDB:B.

JUN 2 1925

62-5033-157
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 29 1925
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
For File

DAY LETTER	WIDE
WIDE MESSAGE	WIDE
DAY LETTER	WIDE

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

WESTERN TELEGRAM

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

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

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages is STANDARD TIME
 Received at Commercial Nat'l Bank Bldg., 14th & G Sts., N. W. Washington, D. C. ALWAYS OPEN 925 PM 30 JUN 2 05

AA 48 16 COLLECT GOVT

61800

OKLAHOMACITY CHLA 30 1248P

J E HOOVER

959

DEPT JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

HAVE AGENT BURNER STRENN AND SMITH REPORT OKLAHOMACITY CSAGE JUNE
 CASES BY JUNE SECOND IF POSSIBLE

TWO BOILING.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-158

JUN 1 1936

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

Handwritten: 12, 4/1, am, 1936

100 0150
North Terre Haute
Box 48. Dad Sam Sanders
B70
J. Edgar Hoover
MAY 26 1937
1925

Washington D. C.
My Dear Mr Sanders
~~My Son Roy D. Sherrill~~
Now confined in the
Federal prison at Leavenworth
Kear's request are
through the agency of
the "Underground Channels"
to send this extract
taken from his letter
which came to my hands
"You may inform Mr
Sanders that I have
the confidence of a cert-
ain members of the
Cage County "Murder
~~Members of the Cage~~
Ring" of Oklahoma.

and that should the
Dept of Justice care to
consider my definite
release from prison and
to extend to me the
confidence necessary to
enable me to act as
a government agent in
aiding to clear this murder
mystery. I would feel
it my duty to make
every effort toward
sustaining any trust
which may be imposed
in me. I shall trust
Mr. Sanders can
appreciate my urgent
request for keeping
my connection with
this investigation as

secret as possible.
For should it become
known any assistance
of mine would be of no
value, and my life
would be greatly end-
angered by the members
of this "Murder Ring"
whose fingers of graft
extend into certain
agencies of the Gov. &
itself. This latter
accusation is not
mere supposition on
my part for a part of
my time while an
escape from this prison
was spent in Osage
County. Therefore, I
have every reason to

4
know certain Protection
on the part of certain
Federal men to have
existed. In the event
the Dept of Justice decides
to give this matter any
consideration it will
be necessary that any
representative
Commissioned to see
me be instructed not
to divulge the purpose
of his mission to any
official connected
with this penitentiary
for aside from ethical
reasons absolute
secrecy is necessary
for the success of the
Government's interest

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power in this case." -
no doubt Mrs. Sanders
you can appreciate
the interest from a
father's point of view.
I have in the welfare
of my son; and trust
you will give this
matter your earnest
consideration and
advise me accordin-
gly" With kind per-
sonal regards

I beg to remain

Yours Truly

Rev. J. L. Merrill

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16 June 24, 1925.
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18 Mr. W. D. Bolling,
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20 P. O. Box 125,
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22 Oklahoma City, Okla.
23

24 Dear Sir:-
25

26 I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter
27
28 addressed to the Secretary to the President relative to
29
30 information concerning the OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS said to
31
32 be in the possession of Ray D. Sherrill, now confined in
33
34 Leavenworth Penitentiary.
35

36 I suggest that you communicate with Leverand
37
38 J. L. Ederill as there seems to be a feeling that Ray
39
40 D. Sherrill has not given all of the information in his
41
42 possession, and it is possible that through the influence
43
44 of his father who writes the attached letter that Sherrill
45
46 can be induced to disclose all of the information with re-
47
48 gard to the Osage Murders.
49

50 Very truly yours,
51

52
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54 Director.
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Encl. 9064.

RECORDED & INDEXED

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

MAY 29 1925

JUN
2
1925

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

62-503

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In connection with the work of your Bureau in investigating the murder of a number of Osage Indians, there is enclosed for your information and consideration a report of J. W. Adamson, Post Office Inspector, showing the results of his conference with one Roy D. Sherill, a prisoner confined in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Sincerely yours,

Chas. H. Burke
Commissioner.

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W. H. [unclear]
6/1/25*Handwritten notes and initials*

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-166

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1925 P.M.

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Div. 1

JUN 1 0 1925

Post Office Department

J. W. Jackson,
Inspector

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR CASE No. Special.
Chicago, Ill., May 19, 1925.

Subject: W L A H O K A Alleged activities of "murder" gang in Osage County.

Inspector in Charge,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Miller:

In connection with an official visit to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, May 18th, 1925, I had a personal interview with a prisoner named Roy P. Sherrill, confined in that institution for participation in a train robbery at Paola, Kansas, in 1916. This interview was brought about through the continued requests of the prisoner's father, who had been writing me frequently, stating that his son had some information to give me, which was of vast importance to the Government.

Roy P. Sherrill escaped from the penitentiary in May, 1921, with Joe Davis, another noted character, and was not apprehended until about one and one-half years later, during that period he spent a large part of the time on the ranch of Henry Grammer, a noted Oklahoma character who was married to an Osage Indian.

While I was engaged in the investigation of the Okesa, Oklahoma, train robbery case, in Osage County, I was aware of the fact that agents of the Department of Justice were working on a number of mysterious murders of Osage Indians. It is my recollection that these agents were working in connection with some of the State officers, and at that time it was my understanding the Government was interested, because these Indians were wards of the Government. However, I know nothing of the details. Sherrill now tells me that he can give information as to the ring implicated in these murders; can give name of the leader, and was himself approached to do some of the work. I did not go into details with Sherrill, because I was not familiar with the matter, but believe if these murders have not been solved that Sherrill can give valuable information. As is natural to a man in his position, he expects some consideration for this information, particularly with a view to having his "good time" restored and which he lost by making an escape. It is believed that Sherrill will give this information to a duly authorized agent of the Government, but wants to do this in such way as to protect his own life.

The Osage Indians are very wealthy because of the oil discoveries on their allotments, and it is probable the Interior Department is interested, or may be investigating the murders.

This information is furnished that you may forward to the Chief Inspector for such disposition as he may deem proper.

J. M. Adamson
Post Office Inspector.

JUN 1 0 1935

June 4 1935

Rolling
Federal Bldg
Oklahoma City Okla

POST OFFICE INSPECTOR REPORTS BOY D. BERNARD PRISONER
LEAVENWORTH PENITENTIARY HAS CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION
ON PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR GEORGE MURDER AND IN FACT HAS
HIMSELF APPROACHED TO DO SOME OF WORK. SUGGEST YOU
FOLLOW OUT. SERIAL REQUESTS CONSIDERATION WAY OF
RESTORATION GOOD TIME LOST ACCOUNT ESCAPE FROM PENITENTIARY
BUT UNABLE MAKE ANY PROMISE OTHER THAN YOU WILL SUBMIT
RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED INFORMATION FURNISHED BY HIM OF
VALUE

RECORDED & INDEXED

TWO HOOVER

2	TELEGRAM	
3	DAY LETTER	BLUE
4	NIGHT MESSAGE	WITE
5	NIGHT LETTER	N.L.
6	None of these three symbols appear after the check (number of words) this is a telegraphic code and its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	


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

If any of these symbols appear after the check (number of words) this is a telegraphic code and its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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

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

ALWAYS OPEN

61501 JUN 5 PM

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19 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

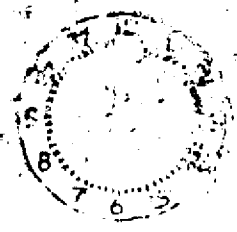
21 ARREST BURGER KANSASCITY ARRIVED YESTERDAY AGENTS STREET KLPASO

23 AND SMITH DALLAS ARRIVED TODAY

FIVE BOEING.

JUN 5 1926

Handwritten: 15



JUN 3 1926

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 JUN 4 1926
 DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
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June 2, 1925.

Mr. J. J. McLaughlin,

P. O. Box 203,

St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Sir:-

I am forwarding herewith photostatic copy of a letter addressed to Lester Garis by Leley J. Leachman, 1655 Texas Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, who claims to have some information with regard to the Orange Indian Murders in Oklahoma which have been investigated by the Bureau for some time past.

I wish you would have someone see Mr. Leachman and procure any facts of interest to the Oklahoma City office, which is handling the investigation, and forward the same to that office promptly.

The office of origin is Oklahoma City and the title of the investigation "Orange Indian Murders", File Class 462.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 28435.

RECEIVED & RECORDED

62-5033-763	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 8 1925 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

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3 ADDRESS REPLY TO
4 DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 AND REFER TO
6 INITIALS AND NUMBER

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

June 5, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On the attached memorandum you are advised
that Mrs. Kenny never has shown up, therefore no
action has been taken.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
JUN 5 - 1925

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-5033-164

JUN 29 1925

File
JUN 2 1925

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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. April 16, 1935.

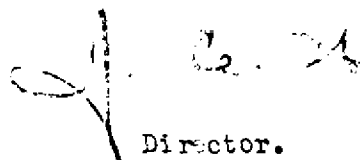
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GRIMS.

The secretary to Senator Pine called me by telephone and stated that a Mrs. Kenny of Oklahoma, who has considerable knowledge concerning the Osage Indian murders and who, I believe, was indicted and convicted of murdering her husband, is in Washington. It seems that the secretary to Senator Pine defended Mrs. Kenny in this matter.

The secretary called to inquire whether we were still interested in the Osage matter and I told him that we were and he said that he would call sometime this week to make an appointment for Mrs. Kenny to come to the Bureau of Investigation for an interview.

I wish that you would fully familiarize yourself with the details of this matter so that when Mrs. Kenny calls I may be able to refer her to you for the interview.

Very truly yours,


Director.

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

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

June 6, 1925.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice, ATTENTION #2.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Osage Indian Matters.

This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram of June 4th advising that Roy D. Sherrill, prisoner in Leavenworth Penitentiary, has some information of value regarding the Osage Murders.

This matter will have prompt attention, and your instructions as to promises will be carried out.

Respectfully,

W. D. Bolling

W. D. Bolling,
Special Agent In Charge.

WDB:B.

62-5033-165	
JUN 8 1925	
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

JOURNAL MEMORANDUM

Date Mar. 5, 1923 Office Oklahoma City, Okla.

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

Bill Smith and other

Osage Indians, Murder of

: Conspiracy

Origin of Case Director, Washington, D. C. Date March 24, 1923

Local Office No. 7000 Bureau No. 62-5033 Other Office No. _____

Assigned to Special Agent _____ Date _____

Reassigned to Special Agent _____ Date _____

Reassigned to Special Agent _____ Date _____

STATUS OF CASE

Referred to U. S. Attorney _____ Date _____

U. S. Comm. Warrants Issued _____ Date _____
(Name of commissioner.)

Preliminary Hearing _____ Date _____

Continued Hearings _____ Date _____

Presented to Grand Jury _____ Date _____

Indictment Returned _____ Date _____

Arraignment and Plea _____ Date _____

Set for Trial _____ Date _____
(Name of judge, court, and place.)

Court Verdict _____ Date _____

Remarks _____

NOTE.—This form is to be filled in by typewriter or ink.

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WWG:GA

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

June 4, 1925.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BUREAU FILES

In order that there may be a notation in the files, on Saturday, May 9th, I attended a conference with Attorney General Sargent, Hon. George Short, Attorney General of Oklahoma, Assistant Attorney General Wells, Mr. Ridgely, Major Dyer, and attorney Brown of Mr. Wells' division, -all in the Attorney General's office, with regard to the Osage cases.

The entire case was recited to the Attorney General by Mr. Short, who was told by Mr. Sargent that the Department would give him every possible assistance, and only awaits his decision as to time and place of proceeding with the inquiry in the State courts of Oklahoma.

Mr. Brown was assigned as legal representative of the Department.

mf

JUN 15 1925

62-5033-166

JUN 15 1925	
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