



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# **OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS**

**PART 13 OF 19**

**BUFILE NUMBER: 62-5033**

**FILE DESCRIPTION**

**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** Large Indian Murders

**FILE NO.** 42-5033

**SECTION NO.** 13

**SERIALS** 420- 443

4 pages 215A - 2164

1 cover page - Total 116

Department of Justice.

Bureau of Investigation.

P. O. Box 1535,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

July 21, 1926.

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

Dear Sir:

ATTENTION DIVISION TWO

I am herewith enclosing to you copies  
of abstracts made in the Henry Roan case, which are  
to be inserted in your abstract record.

These abstracts bring the case up to  
the present date and report on the additional facts  
obtained in this investigation.

Very truly yours,

T. B. White  
Special Agent in Charge.

TBW:B.  
Encl.

62-5033

RECEIVED

JUL 27 1926

62-5033-420

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HENRY ROAM MURDER CASE

NOT

Change name of "H. W. Lake" on Index and on Page 21  
to read "EUGENE PEEL".

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1.  
GEORGE C. CALPBULL,  
% Osage Indian Agency,  
Pawnee, Okla.

2.  
This witness is a surveyor for the Osage  
Indian Agency, and can testify as to the  
location where body of Henry Roan was  
found with bullet hole in his head.

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1.  
DWAYNE S. LEE,  
Syracuse, Kas.

2.  
This witness stated, that while he was confined in the Guthrie City Jail he was in the same cell as John Ramsey, and Ramsey told him, Solph, that he, Ramsey, had made a confession to the Government telling them all about the killing of Henry Roan; that Ernest Burkhardt had "put it on him" and there was nothing for him to do but tell the truth and tell it all.

3.  
Page 917,  
2nd par.

4.  
This man will make a  
willing witness.

HENRY WARD,  
Fairfax, Okla.

This witness stated to Agents Parker and Davis, that some days prior to the finding of Henry Roan's body, both he, Ward, and George Bolton were standing together on the streets of Fairfax and saw John Ramsey and "K. Hale together driving in a new Ford Roadster; that he, Ward, remarked to Bolton, "I wonder who will be the next one", they both realizing that Hale and Ramsey were preparing to pull some kind of a bad deal; that later Henry Roan was found murdered, and on that day he, Ward, and Bolton again met and discussed the finding of Roan murdered, and recalled to each other having seen Ramsey and Hale together, and immediately concluded that they, Hale, and Ramsey were responsible for the murder of Roan.

Page 923,  
last par.

This man is a reputable citizen of Fairfax, and will make a willing witness.

7-5



1. GEORGE BOLTON,  
Fairfax, Okla.

2. This witness stated to Agents Parker and Davis, that some days prior to the finding of Henry Roan's body, both he, Bolton, and Henry WARD were standing together on the streets of Fairfax and saw John Ramsey and W. K. Hale together driving in a new Ford roadster; that Ward remarked to Bolton, "I wonder who will be the next one" they both realizing that Hale and Ramsey were preparing to pull some kind of a bad deal; that later Henry Roan was found murdered, and on that day Bolton and Ward again met and discussed the finding of Roan's body, and recalled to each other having seen Ramsey and Hale together, and immediately concluded that they, Hale and Ramsey, were responsible for the murder of Roan.

3. Page 923,  
last par.

4. This man is a reputable citizen of Fairfax, and will make a willing witness.



1.  
J. W. WIGTON,  
Glenn L. Wigton Motor  
Company,  
Ponca City, Okla.

2.  
This witness can testify that John  
Ramsey purchased a Ford roadster car  
on January 4, 1923, from his company,  
paying cash for same. The motor No.  
of the Ford car purchased by Ramsey  
is #6894153.

3.  
Page 902,  
last par.



JIM BALLEW,  
Ponca City, Okla.

1.

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3.

Page 349,  
last par.

This witness stated to Special Agent that some time in the late Fall of 1932, John Ramsey came to his, Ballew's, ranch and was employed by him (Ballew) doing repair work around the ranch; that he, Ballew, aided and assisted Ramsey financially in a small way for his services; that Ramsey at that time was broke; that some time around the following Christmas, Ramsey came to him and stated that his family needed some money and requested of Ballew a loan of \$100; that he, Ballew, granted this favor to Ramsey; that continuing on Ramsey assisted Ballew in building a garage and making other improvements on the ranch; that some time around the middle of Jan. 1933, Ramsey disappeared from the ranch for a few days, and returned with a new Ford roadster car; that he, Ballew, became suspicious and questioned Ramsey as to where he got the car; and Ramsey stated to him that he purchased the car new and paid cash for it; that following this Ramsey spent a very little of his time at the ranch, claiming to be sick and not feeling well enough to be able to work; that Ramsey would return to the ranch at late hours of the night and appeared rather restless and worried; that some time around the latter part of January or early part of February, 1933, Ramsey came to him, Ballew, and told him that he, Ramsey, expected to have a bank roll, soon and wanted to go to Ballew's ranch; that

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JIM BALLEW,  
(continued)

Ballew told him, Ramsey, that he did not want to rent his ranch, but suggested that Ramsey see Kirk Ballew and rent his place; that Ramsey then left and did not draw wages due him or take his belongings with him; that two or three months later, the exact time he, Ballew, does not recall, Ballew next met Ramsey when Ramsey and his daughter drove to Ballew's ranch in this new Ford car; that Ramsey stated that he came after some things that he left there; that Ramsey on being questioned by Ballew as to where he had been and where he was then living, stated that he was down near Fairfax on a ranch, which he got thru Bill Hale or that Bill Hale had helped him get; that it was so late in the season when he got this ranch, that the only thing he could plant was food stuff, but he expected to raise a good crop of that.



1.  
MATT M. WILLIAMS,  
Denver, Colorado.

Material.

2.  
On February 14, 1926, this witness made  
the following statement to Agents of  
the Bureau:

3.  
Page 916.  
last par.

4.  
This party is a will-  
ing witness, and is  
being kept under sur-  
veillance by Agent of  
this Bureau.

This party is also a  
material witness in  
the Anna Brown murder  
case.

"In January, 1925, W. K. (Bill) Hale met  
me at Ralston, Okla., and told me that he  
had got some insurance company from  
Denver, Colorado, to insure Henry Roan's  
life for \$25,000 in his, Hale's, favor;  
that the insurance company at Pawnee, Okla.,  
had failed to write the insurance, but  
he, Hale, had got by with the Denver  
insurance company. Hale asked me what  
I thought about John Ramsey, if he was  
all right. Hale told me that he, Hale,  
had arranged with Ramsey to bump Roan  
off, and collect the \$25,000 insurance.  
I asked Hale how he expected to get by  
with that kind of stuff, and Hale said he  
had let Roan have some cattle, and he,  
Hale, would make it appear that the in-  
surance was for security on the cattle  
deal, and would be for insurance on the  
cattle trade, and that he could get by  
with it all right. I then told Hale  
that I thought Ramsey would do as he  
agreed to do, and in a short time Roan  
was found dead, shot in the back of the  
head, near Fairfax, Okla.

Three days after Roan was found I met  
John Ramsey at Mike Foley's Hotel at  
Fairfax, Okla., and Ramsey told me about  
killing Henry Roan, where he was found.

7-44

HARRY M. WILLIAMS.

(Continued)

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"shot; that he, Ramsey, had done as Hale told him to do, that he had told Roan to wait him out there alone to get some whiskey, and when Roan met him he, Ramsey, opened the side door of the car and shot Roan in the back of the head while he, Roan, was in the car, and that Hale had promised him \$5,000; that Hale had only paid him \$500 and given him a Ford car, and he, Ramsey, asked me to help him prevail on Hale to pay the balance of the money. I afterwards talked to Hale about the balance of the money due Ramsey for killing Roan, and Hale told me that he had told Ramsey he would pay him the balance when he collected the insurance, and that was the agreement he, Hale, had had with Ramsey for the killing of Henry Roan.

"Hale told me several times that he had everything squared in Osage County, from the Roan Overseer to the top, and he was exempt from prosecution for the murders and the Roan insurance policy. I then told Hale that he had better be careful about pulling off jobs on restricted Indian lands, and Hale told me he had talked to his lawyers about Government jurisdiction, and Hale said his lawyers had told him that the Government had no jurisdiction, and that he was in the clear so far as the Government was concerned."



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ADWIN BROWN,  
Special Asst't to  
Attorney Gen'l,  
Guthrie, Okla.

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After John Ramsey made confession to the  
killing of Henry Road, Ramsey told this  
witness that he had told the truth re-  
garding the murders, and Ramsey again  
repeated the same to Mr. Brown while  
Ramsey was confined in the Guthrie jail.

7-10



Marie Sleeper,  
Court Clerk,  
Guthrie, Okla.

This witness can testify that she took  
statement, dictated by Attorney Springer,  
in which John Ramsey repudiated his con-  
fession to Federal Agents, and in which  
Ramsey stated that Agent Murphy forced  
him to sign confession, to Roen murder,  
by Murphy placing a gun against him.

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1. DOUGLAS,

Shelton,  
Cathys, Ohio.

This witness can testify that he was present when John Ramsey signed statement in which Ramsey repudiated his confession to the Henry Roan murder, made to Federal Agents, and in which statement Ramsey stated that he was forced to sign a confession to the Roan murder by Agent Murphy placing a gun against him.

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DR. W. H. AARON,  
Lawhnska, Okla.

2.  
This man made physical examination of Henry Roan when W. K. Hale secured a \$25,000 insurance policy on Roan's life in Hale's favor. Dr. Aaron stated that at the time he examined Henry Roan for the insurance, W. K. Hale was in his office, and he, Dr. Aaron, asked Hale, "How after you get this \$25,000 policy on Roan, what are you going to do", and Hale answered him and said, "I'm going to bump him off."

3.  
Page 917,  
1st par.

4.  
This man is considered  
ed a reputable citizen  
of Lawhnska, and will  
make a willing witness.



1.  
Dr. C. W. Coss, Pawhuska, Okla.

2.  
This witness was one of the physicians who examined Henry Roan for the \$25,000 life insurance policy which Hale obtained on Roan.

3.  
266

445  
HIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT Washington, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 7-22-26	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-22-26	REPORT MADE BY P. J. Ahern
TITLE EARLEST G. BURSHEARDT			CHARACTER OF CASE Osage Indian Matter. Murders of Government Reservation.

REOPENED CASE

File #70-23

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** The records of the Veterans' Bureau, on examination, show that subject filed claim for disability compensation on December 29, 1924, which was disallowed.

Referred back to office of origin. No further action here.

**DETAILS:**

Reference is made to previous report by this Agent, dated Wash. D. C., 7-12-26, and especially to the following telegram:

"OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA

JULY 21, 1926.

J.M. KEITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HURLEY WRIGHT BLDG WASHINGTON D C

REFERRING AHERN'S REPORT EARLEST G BURSHEARDT JULY TWELVE UNDERGOING ALL SOLDIERS PHYSICALLY EXAMINED AT TIME OF DISCHARGE IN DEMOBILIZATION CAMPS EXAMINATION SHOWING ALL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEFECTS IN DETAIL SOME SUCH RECORD PROBABLY ALSO SHOWN ON SOLDIERS SERVICE RECORD GET IF POSSIBLE THIS RECORD BURSHEARDT AND ALSO RECORD OF DISABILITY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

WHITE."

Agent had the records of the Veterans' Bureau examined regarding subject, and they show that he filed claim for disability compensation on December 29, 1924, and that this claim was disallowed.

**DETAILS:** The physical examination of subject previous to discharge shows - No disability - no defects - no hospital record.

Referred back to office of origin. No further action here.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	Acting SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
WASHINGTON REFERENCE #2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Bureau-3 - File-1 Oklahoma City-2
JGD:	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: <i>[Initials]</i> FILE <i>[Initials]</i>	
RECORDED AND INDEXED: JUL 30 1926 CHECKED OFF: AUG 10 1926 JACKETED	

OUTREACHED BY OUTSIDE OFFICE

7-1323

8/9/26

2608

448  
PW:DS

62-6053 -421

RECORDED

AUG 10 1926

August 9, 1926.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEHRING

With reference to the case of EARNEST  
G. BURKHARDT, Osage Indian Matter, I am in-  
closing herewith report submitted by Agent  
P. J. Ahern, at Washington, D. C., dated  
July 22, 1926.

Very truly yours,

Inc. 256544.

Director.

2669



THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: <u>Indpls., Ind.</u>	DATE WHEN MADE: <u>7-27-26</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <u>7-23-25-26</u>	REPORT MADE BY: <u>J. D. Bayliss</u>
TITLE: <u>✓ W. K. HALE</u>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <u>Osage Indian Murder</u>

Indianapolis file 62-59

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

62-5033

As per telegraphic request from Oklahoma City, July 23rd, Agent at Ft. Wayne, Ind. July 25th interviewed GEO. LOWE, 3525 S. Harrison St. and was advised that Government witness Eugene E. Feele left Ft. Wayne at 6:30 A.M. July 25th via automobile for St. Louis, Mo. and was to take train from St. Louis at 6:45 P.M. July 25th for Guthrie, Okla. Wired Oklahoma Office accordingly.

REFERRED BACK TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN; NO FURTHER ACTION HERE

DETAILS:

July 23rd, 1926 Indianapolis Office received a telegram from the Oklahoma City Office stating that EUGENE E. FEELE, under subpoena to appear at Guthrie, Okla. July 26th in the W. K. Hale, Osage Indian Murder case, would arrive at Ft. Wayne, Ind. Sunday, July 25th, to visit at the home of GEO. E. LOWE, 3525 S. Harrison St., and should be notified to appear immediately at Guthrie, Okla. in answer to summons.

AT FT. WAYNE, INDIANA: July 25th Mr. GEO. LOWE advised Agent that EUGENE E. FEELE had arrived at his home at 5:30 A.M. July 25th and received a telegram from Agent in Charge F. B. White, Oklahoma City in response to which Mr. FEELE left Ft. Wayne at 6:30 A.M. July 25th via automobile for St. Louis, Mo. where he would take a train at 6:45 A.M. for Guthrie, Okla. Agent then wired this information to Agent in Charge White, after learning that Mr. Lowe was considered a very reputable citizen and without doubt told the truth regarding witness Feele.

-R. U. C.-

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <i>J. E. Bayliss</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-422	RECORDED AND INDEXED: <b>JUL 30 1926</b>
WASHINGTON REFERENCE:  12	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 2- Washington 2- Oklahoma City 2- Indpls.	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	CHECKED OFF:
		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	JACKETED:
		ROUTED TO: <i>✓</i>	FILE <i>PW</i>

2270

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Washington, D. C.

7-22-26

7-23-26

P. J. Ahern

RABBIT C. BUCHANAN

Osage Indian Reservation, Harrier on  
Government Reservation.

PROPOSED CASE

File 770-23

The records of the Veterans' Bureau, on examination, show that subject filed claim for disability compensation on December 29, 1924, which was disallowed.

Referred back to office of origin. No further action here.

DETAILS:

Inference is made to previous report by this Agent, dated Washington, D. C., 7-12-26, and especially to the following telegram

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA

JULY 21, 1926.

J.M. SMITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU WASHINGTON D C

REPORTING AGENCIES REPORT RABBIT C BUCHANAN JULY TWELVE UNDERSTAND ALL SOLDIERS MEDICALLY EXAMINED AT TIME OF DISCHARGE IN DEMOBILIZATION CAMPS EXAMINATION SHOWING ALL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEFECTS IN DETAIL SOLE SUCH RECORD PROBABLY ALSO GIVEN ON SOLDIERS SERVICE RECORD GET IF POSSIBLE THIS RECORD BUCHANAN AND ALSO RECORD OF DISABILITY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

WHITE."

Agent had the records of the Veterans' Bureau examined regarding subject, and they show that he filed claim for disability compensation on December 29, 1924, and that this claim was disallowed.

The physical examination of subject previous to discharge shows - no disability - no defects - no hospital record.

Referred back to office of origin. No further action here.

Approved and  
Forwarded:

Acting Special Agent in Charge.

Bureau-3 File-1  
Oklahoma City-2

2071



RECEIVED AT

This is a full Telegram unless otherwise indicated by a "Day Letter" or "Night Telegram"

TELEGRAMS

TO ALL

AMERICA

CABLEGRAMS

TO ALL

THE WORLD

DELIVERY NO.

STANDARD TIME INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

CLARENCE H. MACHAM, PRESIDENT



BW JR 55 CWT

GUTHRIE OKLA AUG 3 1926

HON J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

HEARING ON ADMISSIBILITY CONFESSIONS HALF RAMSEY CASE CONTINUING  
PROBABLY LAST THROUGHOUT TODAY AND RESUME TRIAL TOMORROW WHICH  
WILL NO DOUBT LAST FIRST OF NEXT WEEK WE ALL WANT YOU TO COME  
YOU CAN COME EITHER VIA CHICAGO KANSASCITY, SANTAFE DIRECT GUTHRIE  
OR BY STLOUIS TO OKLAHOMACITY PLEASE ADVISE STOP WILL KEEP YOU  
INFORMED PROGRESS CASE

AUG 4 1926

RECORDED

EDWIN BROWN

62-5033-425

423



AUG 11

WR

657782

August 6, 1926.

Mr. E. B. White,  
P. O. Box 1535,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. White:-

I received your telegram of the 3rd instant, relative to the prosecution in the Hale Ramsey case.

I had hoped to be able to get to Oklahoma during this trial as I wanted to have the pleasure of being present, if possible, when the verdict of guilty, which certainly must be returned, is brought in. I have been unable to get away due to the fact that certain unforeseen developments have arisen at Washington. I have been required to give considerable time to the preparation of the annual report, which is being called for earlier this year than usual and had also had to set up the estimates for the next fiscal year before I could leave town. Consequently I will be unable to get to Oklahoma before the conclusion of the trial. Just as soon as I finish the matters which I have before me at the present time, I intend to leave for an inspection trip of the western and southwestern offices, during the course of which I plan to visit Oklahoma City.

Very truly yours,

Director.

62-5133-121

2673



TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Okla. State City, Oklahoma

August 11, 1926.

Board of Investigation.

Department of Justice,

100-33400-102

man reported here July twenty sixth under subpoena Osage case still open

Five Tinsley Acting

RECORDED

AUG 20 1921

62-5038-425

Dr. J. A. J.

✓

7. 1. 76



RECORDED

503-425

August 16, 1926.

AUG 20 1926

Mr. F. B. White,  
P. O. Box 1225,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Please advise why you did not report the  
arrival of Agent Wrenn, on July 26th, as per Bureau  
instructions.

Very truly yours,

Acting Director.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION  
6 878  
AUG 20 1926

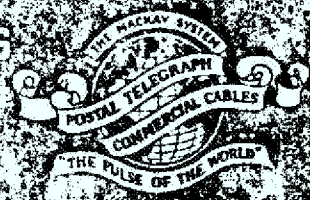
2075



# INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

HENDERSON MACKAY, PRESIDENT

TELEGRAMS  
TO ALL  
AMERICA



CABLEGRAMS  
TO ALL  
THE WORLD

DELIVERY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

is a fast Telegram unless other-  
indicated by signal after the  
beginning of words "P.M." "Day Let."  
"Night" "Week" "Month" or "Year"

BV8348 30 COLLECT GOVT NL

GUTHRIE OKLA 28

1925 JUL 28 PM 7:02

J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

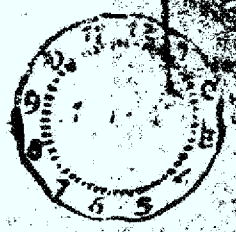
WILL LIKELY GET JURY COMPLETE HALE RAMSEY CASE TONIGHT OR  
IN MORNING TRIAL PROBABLY LAST ALL NEXT WEEK MUCH INTEREST  
LOTS OF WORK SINCERELY HOPE YOU CAN BE HERE

EDWIN BROWN.

AUG 10 1926

62-5033-426

AUG 18 1926 P.M.



JUL 29

2076

JE:LEH

62-5033-426

July 29, 1926.

RECEIVED JUL 30 1926

62-5033

Mr. Edwin Brown,  
P.O. Box 515,  
Guthrie, Okla.

Dear Mr. Brown

Upon my return to the office this morning after an absence of about ten days, I received your telegram and was very glad to learn the exact status of the murder cases. When I left Washington I had intended to proceed to Oklahoma City before I returned to the office but certain matters arose in a number of the northern offices which required my attention and I, consequently, proceeded by way of Detroit, Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia, and have just returned.

I was very anxious to learn the status of the Osage Indian murder cases and note that you state the trial will probably last all of next week. I cannot leave the city for several days as I found it necessary to instruct Mr. Nathan, my Assistant Director, to proceed to New York this morning in order to attend to a very important investigation in that city, but as soon as he returns to the office I shall try to arrange it so that I can leave at once for Guthrie. In the meantime, I would certainly appreciate your keeping me advised as to the exact progress of the case so that I may guide myself accordingly.

With expression of my best regards to you and to the boys in Oklahoma, I remain

Sincerely yours,

2017



SERVICE	SYMBOL
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	WITE
NIGHT LETTER	N.L.

One of these three symbols appears after the check number of (a) this is a telegram. Other characters indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

If none of these symbols appears after the check number (a) this is a telegram. Other characters 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.  
 Rec'd at Commercial Nat'l Bank Bldg., 14th & G Sts., N. W. Washington, D. C. **ALWAYS** AUG 10 PM 4:25

DA171 11 COLLECT GOVT 1 EXTRA ELPASO TEX 10 425 PM  
 DIRECTOR 1697

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON  
 AGENT GREN HAS NOT REPORTED HERE TO DATE FIVE.

WHITE ACTING.

AUG 80 1926  
 RECORDED

62-5733-427  
 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 AUG 18 1926 A.M.  
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Rec'd 7:10 pm  
 508*

*White  
 2078*



7-12  
WFOG

Washington, D.C.  
August 18, 1926.

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

62-5033  
RETAIN AGENTS DAVIS, WREN AND OTHER AGENTS ON OSAGE CASE AT OKLAHOMA

BACK WORK YOUR JURISDICTION IS BROUGHT UP TO-DATE

ONE HOOVER ACTING

2579