



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS

PART 15 OF 19

BUFILE NUMBER: 62-5033

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT

Isaac Jackson Murders

FILE NO.

62-5033

SECTION NO.

16

SERIALS

471- 550

2394- 2524

1 COM Page → Serial 132

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City	DATE WHEN MADE: 11-30-26	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 11-26-26	REPORT MADE BY: F.S. Smith.
TITLE: Anos/Tucker		CHARACTER OF CASE: Perjury. Committed in trial of W.K. Hale and John Ramsey, murder of Henry Roan, Osage Indian	
(O. C. File # 74-21-1)			
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject Tucker testified in the case of U.S. vs. W.K. Hale and John Ramsey, murder of Henry Roan, at Guthrie and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as defense witness, which was contrary to facts developed and in the interest of placing guilt on Roy Bunch. Statement of Roy Bunch that Subject Tucker told him prior to giving testimony that he was going to perjure himself for Hale and would do the same for Bunch under like circumstances. Summary of testimony of each material witness to refute.			
- PENDING -			
62 5030			
DETAILS: BEGINNING. Subject Tucker testified as a defense witness in the trial of W.K. Hale and John Ramsey at Guthrie and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Testimony on the two occasions conflicts with reference to time and circumstances. Transcript of testimony given at Guthrie not available at present time. Testimony at Oklahoma City follows.			
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>CD McGeary</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-471	RECORDED AND INDEXED: DEC 1 1926
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: # 2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3-Bureau 2 Dept. of Justice, O.C. 1 U.S. Atty, O.C.	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEC 14 1926 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: Div. Two ✓	CHECKED OFF: DEC 21 1926 JACKETED:

ENTRUSTED FOLDING OFFER

7-1228

2394

5711KT
Testimony of Amos Tucker
given at Oklahoma City, Okla.

Direct Examination.

By Mr. Howard:

Q. State your name.

A. Amos Tucker.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Fairfax.

Q. What is your business?

A. Looking after a bunch of cattle.

Q. I want to introduce a letter for the purpose of fixing a date.

OBJECTION by Mr. Lohring.

BY THE COURT: Proceed.

Q. Mr. Tucker were you living at Fairfax along about January, 1923?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Joe Bozarth?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You know Henry Cornett?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You know Roy Bunch?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Mary Bunch?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Tucker, I will ask you if some time the latter part of January, 1923, you and Joe Bozarth went to Henry Cornett's?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did you go?

A. I went in a car.

Q. And where did you start from?

A. Fairfax.

Q. About what time did you leave Fairfax?

A. In the neighborhood of 7 or 7:30.

Q. At night?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And who went with you?

A. Joe Bozarth.

Q. What did you go out there for?

A. To get some liquor.

Q. Did you know Curley Johnson at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. In going out there what road did you travel?

2395

- Q. We went north of Fairfax about a mile, maybe a mile and half, and then turned west and went across Salt Creek, maybe three miles, and then went up on top of a big high hill angling north and then went west.
- Q. Is that the road that leads out through Sol Smith's pasture?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you know where the Rowe home was at that time?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you go by there?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you see Roy Bunch that evening?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Where did you see him?
- A. We met him at a cattle guard.
- Q. About how far from where the Rowe house is it up there?
- A. About a mile and half, maybe two miles.
- Q. Which direction?
- A. South.
- Q. And who was with Roy Bunch at that time?
- A. Henry Roan, and I believe Bill Taylor.
- Q. You say you met them at a cattle guard?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Who went through the cattle guard first?
- A. He did.
- Q. Where was your car as they went through the cattle guard?
- A. I pulled off the side so they could go through.
- Q. Which direction were you going?
- A. North.
- Q. And they were going south?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. About what time in the evening was that as near as you can tell?
- A. It was about 9 o'clock.
- Q. Where did you go after you left that place?
- A. I went to Henry Cornett's.
- Q. Did you see Curley Johnson there that evening?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Was he there when you got there?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. How long had you been there before Curley Johnson got there?
- A. Well, it was about 30 minutes, maybe an hour.
- Q. From which direction did he come?
- A. He came from the east.
- Q. Do you remember how he was traveling?
- A. In a car.
- Q. Did you get some whiskey over there that night?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And then where did you and Joe Bozarth go?
- A. Back home.
- Q. You say you knew Henry Roan in his life time?
- A. Yes, sir.
- 2396

Q. Did you ever see Roy Bunch and Henry Roan having any trouble?

OBJECTION by Mr. Lohring.

BY THE COURT: You may answer.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you know when he died?

A. I don't know for sure when he died.

Q. Do you know when his body was found, do you remember that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. About how long was that after you and Joe Bozarth went out to Henry Cornett's?

A. Well, it was about a week I guess, something like that.

Q. You have fixed a time when you heard about him?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. With reference to the time you knew of Roy Bunch and Henry Roan having trouble when was that?

A. In December, 1922.

Q. A month or two before he was found dead?

A. No, it wasn't that long.

Q. If his body was found on the 6th of February would it be a month or more?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think it was about December?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did that trouble occur?

A. There in the alley close to my house.

Q. Just tell what you saw there between these two men?

OBJECTION by Mr. Lohring. Overruled.

A. He and Roy Bunch was coming from the Silver Moon restaurant going to my house and on the road in going down the alley to my house and about half way down this alley half a block we seen Henry Roan coming in a Buick car; he got out and started down the alley and Roy Bunch said "there comes that Indian".

OBJECTION by Mr. Lohring.

A. We went in the house -

Mr. Lohring: Who went in the house?

A. Me and Roy Bunch.

BY THE COURT: Whose house?

OBJECTION by Mr. Lohring.

- Q. I made Roy Bunch go into my house and I made Henry Roan go away.
 Q. Where was Roy Bunch when he left?
 A. In my house.
 Q. How long did he remain there?
 A. Probably an hour.
 Q. Did you ever see them have any other trouble?
 A. No, sir.
 Q. Have you seen Roy Bunch and Mary Roan associating together before the death of Henry Roan?
 A. Yes, sir.

OBJECTION by Mr. Lohring.

- Q. When was that?
 A. Well, they had me haul them after whiskey several times.
 Q. Where did you go on those occasions?
 A. Henry Grammer's and Henry Cornett's.
 Q. Have you seen them together around Fairfax?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. How frequently?
 A. Time and time again.
 Q. Before the death of Henry Roan?
 A. Yes, sir.

Cross Examination.

By Mr. Leahy:

- Q. Amos, do you have any way of fixing the date when you were up at Henry Cornett's at the time you say you drove up there and met these parties on the way back?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What was the date?
 A. It was along in November or rather in December; I had rented a house at the end of this alley; I rented it in that month.
 Q. Where was it you met them?
 A. I met them at a cattle guard in Sol Smith's pasture.
 Q. And what kind of a night was it?
 A. It was kind a cloudy cold night, the best I can remember.
 Q. How long before Xmas?
 A. Well, it wasn't very long.
 Q. Was it a week?
 A. Something like that.
 Q. Did you talk to them there?
 A. No, sir.
 Q. You say Bill Taylor was with them?
 A. It could have been somebody else.

2398

Q. Was there any moonlight?

A. No, sir.

Q. And you think that was about 9:30?

A. 9 or 9:30.

Q. And Joe Bozarth was with you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you say you were going to Henry Cornett's for whiskey?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. At that time your business was selling whiskey?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember the time because of your renting a house in December?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who did you rent from?

A. I rented from ---

Q. And they owned the house?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And where is that house?

A. It sits on the end of the alley near the pool hall in Fairfax.

Q. And then how soon after you rented the house was it you met these folks as you were going out to Cornett's?

A. It was about the 17th when I rented the house.

Q. Was it a week after that you met Roy Bunch and Mary Roan?

A. Maybe a week, maybe not so long.

Q. Were you going out at that time to lay in a supply of whiskey?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was your purpose in going?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was the only time was it you met these folks on the road out there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you think that was along about 9 or 9:30 at night?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I believe you said you left your place at 7:30, how long did it take you to drive out to Henry Cornett's?

A. I drove around to find Joe Bozarth.

Q. Was Joe Bozarth interested in the whiskey deal with you?

A. No, sir, he was going to get a gallon of whiskey for himself.

Q. When was it you saw Henry Roan in the alley at the time you say Roy Bunch was with you?

A. Along about the 15th.

Q. At that time how far apart were they?

A. About half a block.

Q. Was anybody with Henry?

A. No, sir, he was by himself.

Q. Did he have his car?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And did he say anything to Roy Bunch or Roy say anything to him?

2399

- 10 A. No, sir.
- 11 Q. Roy just went in your house?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Was Roy going to your house to get something to drink?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Do you know whether Henry was going down there for the same reason?
- 16 A. No, sir.
- 17 Q. He didn't try to buy whiskey from you at that time?
- 18 A. No, sir.
- 19 Q. At any rate there wasn't anything happened between them there that night?
- 20 A. No, sir.
- 21 Q. This car, do you know whose car that was that you saw Roy Bunch driving at the time you went to Henry Cornett's?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- 23 Q. Do you know whether Roy Bunch had a car?
- 24 A. No, sir.
- 25 Q. You don't know whose car that was?
- 26 A. No, sir.
- 27 Q. You have been convicted a number of times for selling whiskey haven't you?
- 28 A. Yes, sir.
- 29 Q. How many times?
- 30 A. Twice.
- 31 Q. And have served sentences?
- 32 A. Yes, sir.
- 33 Q. And what are you doing now?
- 34 A. Looking after a bunch of cattle.
- 35 Q. For whom?
- 36 A. C. - Dickson.
- 37 Q. And where?
- 38 A. 20 miles north of Fairfax.
- 39 Q. You have been in the employe of the defendant, J.K. Hale, within the last year?
- 40 A. No, sir.
- 41 Q. Haven't you worked for him?
- 42 A. No, sir.
- 43 Q. That is the only two convictions you have had for any offense?
- 44 A. Yes, sir.

Re-Direct Examination.

By Mr. Howard:

- 54 Q. Have you quit the whiskey business entirely?
- 55 A. Yes, sir.

2400

OBJECTION by Mr. Lewis.

Q. You got yourself a little mixed on these two dates, I want you to fix one of them; when I asked you while ago when it was you met this car out there with reference to when Henry Roan's body was found you said about a week and now you tell Mr. Leahy it was about a week before Xmas, now which one is right? Henry's body was found on the 6th of February?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When was it with reference to that? How long was it before you heard of them finding Henry Roan's body?

A. It was about a week.

Q. That you met this car, is that what you want to say?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You told Mr. Leahy you thought it was about a week before Xmas.

BY THE COURT:

Q. Tell this jury why along about the first of February you were going out to lay in a supply of whiskey for Xmas?

A. I didn't go out there in February.

Q. You say you went out to this place to get this whiskey supply for the holidays?

A. I was selling whiskey all the time.

Q. I am asking you if you were getting this for the holidays, is that true?

A. For a New Years holiday.

Q. Then it was for New Years?

A. No, sir.

Q. (Mr. Howard) Was Henry Roan armed there that night in Fairfax, have a gun on him?

A. I never saw no gun, no, sir.

Q. Was Roy Bunch armed?

A. Yes, sir.

Re-Cross Examination.

By Mr. Leahy:

Q. You testified that you went out to get this whiskey at that time for the Xmas holidays and that Joe Bozarth went to get himself a gallon of whiskey?

A. He went to get him a gallon of whiskey.

Q. You also testified didn't you that at the time you saw Roy Bunch in the alley was about the 15th?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That would be the 15th of January?

A. Of December.

Q. You fixed your date while ago with reference to the time you moved into a house with reference to the time you went to Henry Cornett's?

A. I moved into the house about the 17th of December.

Q. And about a week after that was when you went to Henry Cornett's when you met this car?

A. No, sir, you asked how I knowed how long it was?

Q. And you said it was about a week before you rented this house.

A. Yes, sir.

STOP

.....

Testimony of Roy Bunch
of Fairfax, Oklahoma.
(Summary).

That all testimony given by Subject Tucker at Guthrie and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was false in its entirety. That Subject Tucker approached him just prior to going on the witness stand at Guthrie to testify and told him that he was going to perjure himself for Hale and would do the same for him. Bunch, under like circumstances, and requested Bunch not to get mad at him. Bunch states that he was not at Cornett's for more than a year previous to the murder of Henry Roan.

Testimony of Mary Bunch
of Fairfax, Oklahoma.
(Summary).

Mary Roan Bunch will testify that she had not been to Cornett's ranch for more than a year previous to the death of Henry Roan, and was not out with Bunch and Taylor as testified to by Tucker, and that she had no car at that time.

Testimony of Bill Taylor
of Fairfax, Oklahoma.
(Summary)

That testimony given by Tucker was false with respect to his being with Bunch and Mary Roan Bunch in a car.

- PENDING -

2401

CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE: 12-20-26.	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12-10 to 19-26	REPORT MADE BY: F. S. Smith.
TITLE: AMOS TUCKER.			CHARACTER OF CASE: PERJURY. Committed at Trial of W. K. Hale and John Ramsey. Mur- der of Henry Roan, Osage Indian.

(O. C. File 74-21-2).

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Joint Report of Agents F. S. Smith and J. R. Burger.

Complaint filed at Oklahoma City, Western District of Oklahoma, December 11, 1926, charging Subject with committing Perjury while testifying as a defense witness in the matter of United States vs. W. K. Hale & John Ramsey, Murder of Henry Roan, at Oklahoma City, Oct. 27, 1926. Subject Tucker being in the Northern District of Oklahoma, Fugitive Complaint was issued at Tulsa. Subject apprehended; arraigned at Bartlesville, Oklahoma before U. S. Commissioner O'Neal; entered plea of "Not Guilty"; waived preliminary hearing; was remanded to Washington County, Oklahoma, Jail in default of bail in sum of \$10,000.00 for his appearance at Okla. City, in the Western District of Oklahoma. Results of interview by Agents Smith and Burger with Subject Tucker. Names and locations of witnesses.

PENDING.

REFERENCE report made by Agent F. S. Smith at Oklahoma City, dated 11-30-26, captioned as above.

DETAILS:

At Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

DETAILS:

Subject Amos Tucker when questioned by Agents Smith and Burger in County Jail at Bartlesville, Oklahoma on Dec. 18, 1926, was reluctant to talk, and refused to make a written statement. He was warned of his legal rights and advised that any statement he made could be used against him as evidence in trial of the case concerning which such statement is made, and after being so warned, Tucker made the following verbal statement:-

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. D. Magee</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		62-5033-472	
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: TWO.	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3-Bureau 1-U.S. Atty. O.C. 2-Oklahoma City.	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEC 23 1926 P.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 8 1927
		ROUTED TO: DEC 22 1926	

EW:

7-1228

2402

F. S. Smith.

12-20-26

#2.

That prior to the murder of Henry Roan, Roy Bunch (who was laying up with Roan's wife) asked him what was the best way to get rid of Henry Roan; that he told Bunch he had better lay off Roan's squaw and go to cutting meat for a living; that he would wind up in the Pen; that when Roan was found murdered he figured that Bunch pulled it and when Hale was arrested and tried that he was innocent and Hale had always been nice to him and advised him to quit bootlegging and that was the reason he testified for him - just trying to help him out; that before the Hale trial at Guthrie, Joe Bozarth came to him and asked him if he remembered the time that he and Bozarth went to Henry Cornett's after whiskey and of meeting Bunch in a car on the road, and he told Bozarth "Yes". That he was working in cement business and got layed off and couldn't get a job and he went to Henry Cornett's with Bozarth on the last day of January, 1925 and bought some whiskey and got back in the bootlegging game; that he intended to testify all about Bunch talking to him but they wouldn't let him and the lawyers got him all tangled up and he expected to go on the stand and try to straighten everything up, but if the jury decided that he had lied that he would take his medicine.

Subject Tucker on being questioned concerning his meeting Bunch stated that he and Bozarth passed Roy Bunch in a car; that a squaw was on the front seat with Bunch but had a blanket over her face, and a man sat on the back seat but held his face down so he could not recognize him; that he might be mistaken about it being Roy Bunch but he had known him always and knew what kind of clothes he wore and was sure it was Bunch he saw and that he could prove that it was on the last day of January, 1925 that he went to Cornett's and met Bunch; that he went to Roy Bunch at Guthrie during trial of Hale and called him away from several people with whom he was talking and told Bunch that he was going on the stand for Hale and for him not to get mad about it. Subject Tucker further stated that he was not going to consult a lawyer; that if one came to him he would tell him he didn't need him and expected to tell the truth when the time came.

While Agents Smith and Burger were questioning Subject Tucker, Attorney Hamilton (Attorney for W. K. Hale) phoned from Pawhuska to the Sheriff advising him that he (Hamilton) was Tucker's lawyer and requested the Sheriff to tell Tucker that he was releasing bond for him.

STATUS OF PROSECUTION.

CHARGE:

PERJURY - Committed in Western District of Oklahoma at Oklahoma City, Oct. 27, 1926, in trial of Hale & Ramsey for murder of Henry Roan.

COMPLAINT:

Filed at Oklahoma City, Dec. 11, 1926. Fugitive Complaint issued in Northern District of Oklahoma, at Tulsa.

ARRESTED:

Dec. 17, 1926, near Fairfax, Oklahoma in Northern District of Oklahoma.

2403

ARRESTMENT:

At Bartlesville, Oklahoma, in Northern District of Oklahoma, Dec. 18, 1926. Entered plea of "Not Guilty". Bond placed in sum of \$10,000 for his appearance at Oklahoma City in default of which he was remanded to County Jail of Washington County, Oklahoma, pending removal to Western District of Oklahoma.

PRELIMINARY:

Waived.

WITNESSES:

H. L. Findley, Clerk, U. S. Court, Western District of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Okla.

B. R. Simpson, Official Court Stenographer, Western District of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.

Roy Bunch, Fairfax, Oklahoma.

Mary Bunch, Fairfax, Okla.

Bell Taylor, Fairfax, Okla.

P. S. Smith, Special Agent.

J. A. Burger, Special Agent.

PENDING.

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62-5072-472
JAN 6 1927

RECORDED

January 4, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LUHRING:

I am attaching hereto a report submitted by
Agent Smith at Oklahoma City, Okla., dated Dec. 20,
1926, in re AMOS TUCKER, Perjury; Committed at
Trial of W. K. Hale and John Ramsey for the Murder
of Henry Roan, Osage Indian.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 42722

BUREAU FILES DIVISION
MAILED
JAN 4 1927
P.M.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2405

McK:W.

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Dec. 21st, 1926

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

Attention: Division Dec 24 1926

RECORDED

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with telegraphic authority received from you sometime ago, Special Agent Frank S. Smith has been investigating certain Perjury cases growing out of the Osage Murder cases. The purpose of our investigation is not only to develop evidence of perjury on the part of certain witnesses in the above mentioned cases, but also to develop evidence of subornation of perjury on the part of one or more attorneys who represented Hale and Ramsey.

Mr. Smith informs me that his investigation has reached the point wherein he believes it now advisable to interview at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, John Ramsey, in an effort to develop from him the part played by those who conceived the idea of introducing false testimony in behalf of Hale and Ramsey. It is the belief of the Agents who worked on the Osage cases that after Ramsey had been confined at the Penitentiary for a time he would be inclined to talk regarding his knowledge of these matters.

It may be that Ramsey has not been confined a sufficient length of time to get into the mood to talk, therefore, it occurred to me it might be advisable to communicate with Mr. White at the institution and have him sound Ramsey out before authorizing Smith to make the proposed trip; on the other hand, such action might be the means of closing the door to this information, in that between the time of White's talk with Ramsey and Smith's arrival, Ramsey would have opportunity for reflection and decide not to say anything at all.

I would thank you to advise me at your earliest convenience of your views in the matter and if you believe it advisable for Agent Smith to proceed to the Penitentiary, kindly authorize same.

Yours very truly,

Clarence D. McKean
Clarence D. McKean,
Special Agent in Charge.

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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HN:GAJ
RECORDED]

JAN 4 1927

December 31, 1926.

Mr. C. D. McKear,
P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

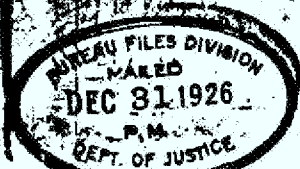
I am in receipt of your communication of December 21st, suggesting the desirability of Agent Frank Smith proceeding to Leavenworth for the purpose of eliciting from John Ramsey information which might develop the part played by those who conceived the idea of introducing false testimony in behalf of himself and Hale.

I am transmitting attached hereto copy of a communication sent to Acting Warden White in this connection, which I believe is self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 245195



2407

62-5033-473

LT

RECORDED RE:GAJ

December 31, 1926.

Mr. T. B. White,
Acting Warden,
United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

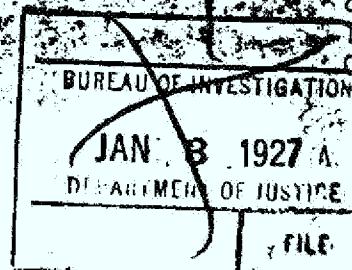
I am transmitting attached hereto copy of a communication received from Agent in Charge McKean, of the Bureau's Oklahoma City office, suggesting the possibility that information may be elicited from John Ramsey in an effort to develop from him the participation by those who conceived the idea of introducing false testimony in behalf of himself and Hale. I am of the opinion that any and all information desirable can be secured from Ramsey by you either now or later, as circumstances may warrant.

Will you please advise me as to your views in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 82093.



2408

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Oklahoma City, Okla.**

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-5-27	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 1-4-27	REPORT MADE BY: F. G. Grimes, Jr.
TITLE: JOHN RAMSEY			CHARACTER OF CASE: PABOLE REPORT

(O.C. File #70-1)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**W. K. HALE and JOHN RAMSEY,
Murder of Henry Roan, an Osage Indian**

At Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on October 29, 1926, W. K. Hale and John Ramsey were convicted of the murder of Henry Roan, an Osage Indian, and on the same day were sentenced to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, for the periods of their natural lives.

The facts in the case are that on or about January 30, 1923, in the Indian Country, John Ramsey shot and killed Henry Roan, an Osage Indian. The scene of the murder was a canyon, quite a little distance from the road. The Indian was lured to the place by whiskey, and while he sat in his car, Ramsey shot him in the back of the head.

Ramsey made a complete confession, setting forth that the crime was actually committed by him, and was done at the solicitation of W. K. Hale, who paid Ramsey \$500. in cash and gave him a Ford Roadster for committing the murder. The motive was to enable Hale to collect a \$25,000.00 life insurance policy which Hale held on the life of Roan, and which at the time of the murder, had been in force about two years. The confession was corroborated in all details.

The murder of Henry Roan was one of a series in which the victims were Osage Indians. Both W. K. Hale and John Ramsey are now charged with murder by the State of Oklahoma in connection with the murders of W. E. Smith, Rita Smith, his wife and Fattie Brookshire, their servant, who were killed by the explosion of fourteen quarts of nitroglycerine placed under the house while they slept. Ramsey has also made a complete confession in this case, admitting that he helped commit the crime, and that it was done at the solicitation of W. K. Hale.

Ernest Burkhardt, a nephew of W. K. Hale, was also charged in the State Courts with the murder of W. E. Smith. He pleaded guilty, after making a confession corroborating Ramsey.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-474	RECORDED AND INDEXED JAN 8 1927
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: # 2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3-Bureau 2-Oklahoma City	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JAN 7 1927 P.M.	CHECKED OFF: JAN 28 1927
		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	JACKETED:
		ROUTED TO: LID. Two	FILE TFB

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2 P. G. Grimes, Jr. 1-5-27

3
4 Burkhardt also made a complete statement of his knowledge of the Henry Ryan
5 murder, his knowledge consisting largely of statements made to him by Hale and Ramsey.

6
7 John Ramsey is 46 years of age, is married, and has six children, ranging
8 from small children to adults. He has followed the vocations of farmer, cowboy, and
9 carpenter, and at the time of his arrest was farming a 160 acre farm. He was an
0 associate of, and worked for, Henry Grammer, who was the head of a large organization
1 of murderers, bank robbers, train bandits, mail bandits, highwaymen, and so on, and
2 most of whom are now either dead or serving long sentences.

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Former record:

Ramsey testified that several years ago he served a sentence in the
Oklahoma State Penitentiary for theft of cattle. So far as is known this is his only
record. He admitted to Agents that while working for Henry Grammer he was engaged
in selling liquor.

2410

TFB:JSR
62-5035-474

RECORDED

JAN 22 1927

January 21, 1927.

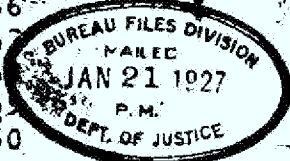
MEMORANDUM FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS

I am attaching hereto a copy of a parole report submitted by Agent Grimes, at Oklahoma City, concerning W. K. HALE. There is also attached the parole report submitted by Agent Grimes concerning JOHN RANNEY. Both of these persons have been convicted of murder and have been sentenced to life imprisonment in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. This case was based upon the murder of Henry Roan, an Osage Indian.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 252285.



2411

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Oklahoma City, Okla.

REPORT MADE AT: Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-5-27	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 1-4-27	REPORT MADE BY: F.G. Grimes, Jr.
TITLE: W. K. HALE		CHARACTER OF CASE: PAROLE REPORT	
62-5033 (O. C. File #70-1)			
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <u>W. K. HALE and JOHN RAMSEY,</u> <u>Murder of Henry Roan, an Osage Indian</u>			
<p>At Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on October 29, 1926, W. K. Hale and John Ramsey were convicted of the murder of Henry Roan, an Osage Indian, and on the same day were sentenced to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, for the periods of their natural lives.</p> <p>The facts of the case are that W. K. Hale aided, abetted, assisted, counselled, solicited, and procured John Ramsey to kill Henry Roan. The actual killing was done by Ramsey, in a canyon, quite a little distance from the road. The Indian was lured to the place by whiskey, and while he sat in his car, Ramsey shot him in the back of the head.</p> <p>Ramsey made a complete confession, setting forth that the crime was actually committed by him, and was done at the solicitation of W. K. Hale, who paid Ramsey \$500. in cash and gave him a Ford Roadster for committing the murder. The motive was to enable Hale to collect a \$25,000.00 life insurance policy which Hale held on the life of Roan, and which, at the time of the murder, had been in force about two years. The confession of Ramsey was corroborated in all details.</p> <p>The murder of Henry Roan was one of a series in which the victims were Osage Indians. Both W. K. Hale and John Ramsey are now charged with murder by the State of Oklahoma in connection with the murders of W. E. Smith, Rita Smith, his wife, and Nettie Brookshire, their servant, who were killed by the explosion of fourteen quarts quarts of nitroglycerine placed under the house while they slept. Ramsey also made a complete confession in this case, admitting that he had helped commit the crime, and that it was done at the solicitation of W. K. Hale.</p> <p>Ernest Burkhart, a nephew of W. K. Hale, was also charged in the State Court with the murder of W. E. Smith. He pleaded guilty, after making a confession corroborating Ramsey, and is now serving a life sentence in the Oklahoma Penitentiary.</p>			
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. Grimes</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-5033-475	RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 8 1927
WASHINGTON REFERENCE: # 2	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3-Bureau 2-Oklahoma City <i>1-21-27</i>	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JAN 7 1927 P.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	CHECKED OFF: JAN 22 1927 JACKETED:
		ROUTED TO: Div. Two	FILE TFB

NOT NECESSARY FURNISH TO:

2412

Burkhart also made a complete statement of his knowledge of the Henry Roan murder, his knowledge consisting of statements made to him by Hale and Ramsey.

In another Osage murder, Byron Burkhart and Kelsie Morrison are charged by the State with the murder of Anna Brown. Byron Burkhart is a nephew of W. K. Hale. At the preliminary hearing of Byron Burkhart, Kelsie Morrison testified that Byron Burkhart had held Anna Brown while he, Morrison, shot her in the back of the head with a gun provided for the purpose by W. K. Hale.

W. K. Hale is 52 years old, is married, and has one child, a married daughter. All his life, he has followed the vocation of a ranchman and cattleman. At the time of his arrest he owned about five thousand acres of land, and leased about thirty thousand acres, which was used in his cattle business. Hale was a close friend and associate of Henry Grammer, who was the head of a large organization of murderers, bank robbers, train bandits, mail bandits, highwaymen and bootleggers, most of whom are now either dead or serving long sentences.

Former record: None.

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
January 6, 1927.

12

McK:h

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

ATTENTION DIRECTOR #1.

62-5033

Dear Sir:

Reference is had to my night message of the 5th instant advising that Agent Frank S. Smith's work here is completed for the present and that he is available for return to the Dallas office, his official headquarters. At a conference had with the United States Attorney here late yesterday relative to the status of the perjury cases growing out of the Osage Murder cases, he expressed the opinion that it would be advisable to hold in abeyance, for the present at least, further investigation of this matter.

I would appreciate being advised of Acting Warden White's views with regard to interviewing John Ramsey in an effort to elicit information from him relative to those responsible for the introduction of false testimony in behalf of himself and Hale. It is the United States District Attorney's belief that Ramsey will not be inclined to talk until his appeal is passed upon next May.

Very truly yours,

Clarence D. McKean,
Special Agent in Charge.

Clarence D. McKean

JAN 12 1927

RECORDED

Reply
1/10/27

62-5033-476	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 10 1927	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. One	Div. Two

HW:DSB

✓ 62-533-476

JAN 12 1927

January 10, 1927.

RECORDED

Mr. C. D. McKean,
P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

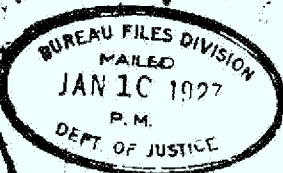
Dear Sir:

The Bureau is in receipt of your letter of January 6th., referring to your night message of the 5th. inst., advising that the work of Agent F. S. Smith is completed and that he is available for return to the Dallas Office.

In view of the present conditions existing in Oklahoma City, I have decided that Agent Smith may be permitted to work on general assignment out of the Oklahoma City Office, at least for the present.

Very truly yours,

Director.



2445

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

RECORDED

Jan 8, 1927

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

503
JAN 13 1927

62-5033-47	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 10 1927	
ONE	TWO

Dear Sir:-

Some time ago you wrote me requesting my advice as to the advisability of an interview with John Ramsey, our Register No. 26519, committed here for life with Wm. K. Hale, No. 26518, for the murder of the Osage Indian, Henry Roan, to get from him information concerning the subordination of perjury by the attorneys for the defense in this case.

Will state that I do not think the time is proper to get anything from Ramsey, at present. I have talked to him 2 or 3 different times since he has been here but have never gone into the cases with him as I did not think it the proper time to do so. The reason I don't think it is the right time is that the lawyers for Hale are preparing an appeal on the ground that they have new evidence due to the eleventh hour statement that Ramsey made before he left Oklahoma City absolving Hale of all guilt and charging Ernest Burkhart, Hale's nephew, Curley Johnson, now dead, and Roy Bunch, who married Henry Roan's widow, with the killing, stating that he was an eye-witness to the same.

Of course, I don't think they will get any where with their appeal. It is very evident that Ramsey is getting some consideration out of Hale, in order to make this statement, and is passing the same on to his wife and family, who are in a pitiful financial condition.

Ramsey has told me that he has discharged his attorney, Jim Springer, whom I have learned since I have been here, got \$10,000 from Hale to defend Ramsey, and has sought the employment of Hale's other attorneys, Hamilton, Howard and Freeling of Oklahoma City and these attorneys have visited him since he has been here, upon his request, for the purpose, as they claim, of taking his case on appeal.

In further conversations I have had with Ramsey he practically admitted his guilt but told me that I couldn't blame him for doing everything he could to get out of it.

I think that the proper time to see Ramsey will be after the case is finally settled and it is seen that there is no more hope for either Hale or Ramsey. I think, at that time, I will be able to get the truth out of Ramsey as he seems to be friendly disposed to me and always has.

I am as anxious as anyone to see that these crooked attorneys get their just deserts and will keep this matter in mind and do all I possibly can to get such information

2416

-2-

as will be of benefit in the case against them.

I don't think, as I have stated, that now is the proper time to get it from Ramsey, however, if you want me to make the endeavor I will do so.

I think, in getting this statement from Ramsey, I should have Agent Frank Smith to assist with the interview.

Very truly yours,

TBW-A

T. B. White
T. B. White, Acting Warden

2417

HN:DSB

RECORDED

January 11, 1927.

Mr. G. D. McKean,
P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

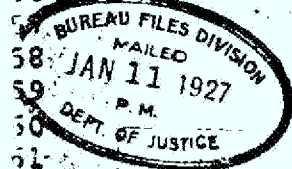
Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of January 6th., requesting that you be advised of the views of Acting Warden White, of the Leavenworth Penitentiary, with regard to the advisability of interviewing John Ramsey for the purpose of eliciting from him information bearing upon the responsibility of false testimony in behalf of himself and Hale at the recent trial.

I am transmitting, attached hereto, copy of a communication just received from Acting Warden White, which indicates, as you will note, that he does not think that the present is a propitious time for this action.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Inc. 42838.



2448

62-5033-477

January 11, 1927

62-5033

RECORDED

JAN 13 1927

Mr. T. B. White,
Acting Warden,
U. S. Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

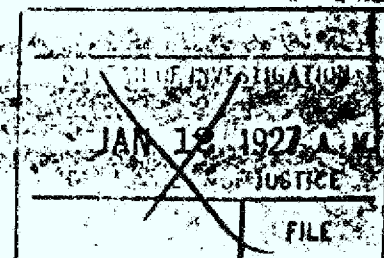
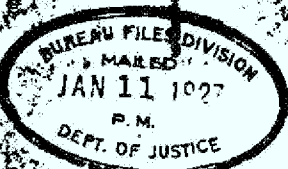
Dear Sir:

The Bureau is in receipt of your communication of January 8th., setting forth your opinion that the present is not a propitious time for securing information from Ramsey bearing on perjury or subornation of perjury committed at his recent trial. I believe that you are correct in this judgment.

I have, however, submitted the matter to Assistant Attorney General Lohring, and should anything further develop from that quarter, I will advise you at once.

Very truly yours,

Director.



12119

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HN:CAJ

January 8, 1927.

Mr. T. B. White,
Acting Warden,
United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of
December 31, 1926 requesting your views in the
matter of the possibility of eliciting informa-
tion from John Ramsay in an effort to develop
from him the part played by those who conceived
the idea of introducing false testimony in behalf
of himself and Hale.

It will be appreciated if you will ad-
vise me relative thereto.

Very truly yours,

Director.

62-5033

RECORDED

62-5033-47
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 10 1927
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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BUREAU FILES DIVISION
MAILED
JAN 8 1927
P.M.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

HM:DSB

January 11, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LUNRING.

I am transmitting, attached hereto, copy of a communication received from Acting Warden White, of the Leavenworth Penitentiary, setting forth that in his opinion the present is not a propitious time for endeavoring to secure from John Ramsey any information concerning perjury or subornation of perjury at the recent defense of his case.

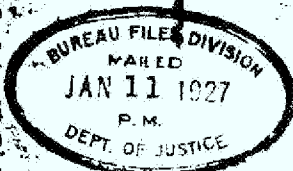
If there is any further advice or suggestions you may have to offer in this case will you please advise me?

Very truly yours,

Director.

Inc. 42839.

RECORDED



62-5033-479	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 12 1927	
	FILE

2427

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Jan 11, 1927

62-5033

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

2

Dear Sir:-

I have just received this morning your letter of the 8th with further reference to the information you wanted concerning John Ramsey's statement, our Register No. 26519, about the introduction of false testimony in behalf of himself and Wm. K. Hale, No. 26518. Will state that I answered, on the 8th, your letter in this connection of Dec. 31st and I presume I covered the case fully. If not and you will kindly notify me I will comply with your request in any way.

I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter of the 31st ult., but it was occasioned by the press of other business.

Very truly yours,

TBW-A

T. B. White
T. B. White, Acting Warden

JAN 14 1927

RECORDED & INDEXED
62-5033-480
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN. 13 1927
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. 1
FILE

2422

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS	
DAY	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
MT	Mountain Letter
LOC	Deferred
CY	Cable Letter
W	Week End Letter

RECORDED

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 in standard time.

Received at Commercial Nat'l Bank Bldg. 14th & C. St. - N W Wash.

CC9 66 COLLECT GOVT NL OKLAHOMA

JAN 20 1927

DIRECTOR BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC.

22-5033-48
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 19 1927
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. Two
Three

JOHN MAYO INMATE KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY BROUGHT

SOME TIME AGO AT REQUEST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE USED AS

WITNESS OSAGE MURDER CASES IN FEDERAL AND STATE COURTS

ESCAPED TULSA JAIL SIXTEENTH WHERE BEING HELD BY STATE

PENDING TRIAL STATE CASES SPECIAL ASSISTANCE ATTORNEY

GENERAL BROWN REQUESTS MY ASSISTANCE IN EFFECTING SUBJECTS

APPREHENSION ALSO ASSISTANCE OUR DETROIT OFFICE BROWN

WIRING DEPARTMENT TONIGHT PLEASE WIRE INSTRUCTIONS

TWO MCKEAN.

2423

HN:GAJ
62-5033 -481

January 19, 1927

RECORDED

JAN 20 1927

McKean
Dept Justice
Federal Bldg
Oklahoma City, Okla.

AUTHORIZATION GRANTED ASSIST IN APPREHENSION JOHN MAYO
BROUGHT TO OKLAHOMA CITY AT FEDERAL REQUEST
J. EDGAR HOOVER



JAN 18 1927

240-1-1

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLE

CLARENCE H. MCKAY, PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT

This is a fast Telegram unless otherwise indicated by signal after the number of words—"Blue" (Day Letter) "N. L." (Night Letter) or "Night" (Night Telegram)

TELEGRAMS
TO ALL
AMERICA



CABLEGRAMS
TO ALL
THE WORLD

DELIVERY NO.

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

3M P TO COLLECT ONE EXTRA

62-5033

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA JAN 21 1927

DIRECTOR BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEPT JUSTICE WASHN DC

REFERRING OUR EXCHANGE TELEGRAMS JOHN MAYO APPREHENDED TULSA

TWO MCKEAM

1200 PM

JAN 21 1927

RECORDED & INDEXED

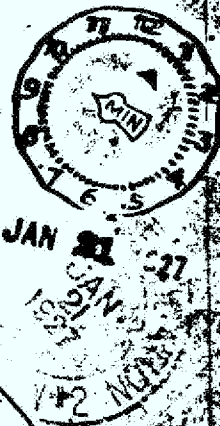
62-5033-482

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 21 1927 P. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE



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