

To illustrate the profligacy of the majority of these Indians, they owed at the end of the fiscal year 1921 \$691,000 to various individuals. It was no uncommon thing from 1923 to 1925 for the grocery bills of numerous Osage Indians to run from \$500 to \$1,000 each per month.

Stomp dances are still indulged in several times a year by the tribe, at which time members of other Indian tribes are invited to attend as guests, and gifts are exchanged between the various tribes and individuals. These stomp dances are the occasion for all night and all day feasts, during which the members of the Osage tribe, as well as visiting tribes, clad in picturesque costumes, dance in a circular formation to the rhythmic beat of the tom-tom. Under the stimulating influence of the dance, which begins in a more or less orderly fashion, the dancers soon wax more enthusiastic and "pass the ground like a bunch of wild steers", after which they will retire for further feasting, during part of which professional Indian dancers will amuse the assembled audience. This dance is participated in not only by the young and enthusiastic members of the tribe, but also by the elder men and women of the tribes, perhaps, are remembering the feasts of earlier years and are trying to bring back their happy recollection by participating in these native dances.

Marriage by full-blood Osage Indians, whose number constitute but one-fourth and one-third of the total number on the tribal rolls, are still solemnized according to tribal customs.

Osage County and the surrounding territory contain very wild stretches of country, thickly wooded with timber unsuited for commercial purposes, but affording excellent concealment in addition to its almost inaccessible canyons which served as hide-outs for notorious criminals. At the time of the murders from 1921 to 1923, this country was a haven for all types of desperate criminals who flocked there from all parts of the country due to the nature of the country itself affording such excellent hiding places for wanted criminals. This criminal element to a large extent was attracted by the enormous wealth of the Osage Indians.

Bandits and robbers abounded. The notorious Al Spencer gang of bank robbers used this country for their hide-out. This particular robber was at one time approached by W. E. Hale, who attempted unsuccessfully to hire him to murder Indians. Dick Gregg, a member of the Al Spencer gang, and his father, John Gregg, testified against Hale at his murder trial to the effect that he tried unsuccessfully to hire Al Spencer, as well as both of the Greggs, to murder certain Indians.

"Curly" Johnson, another notorious bank bandit, was also active in this

country, and was at one time approached by a nephew of William Hale at Hale's instigation, for the purpose of hiring Johnson to murder certain Indians. Johnson was later killed under mysterious circumstances, and the rumor was common that he had been killed at the instigation of Hale, who feared that he might talk.

Another notorious character who shared honors with W. K. Hale - as boss of the criminal element of Osage County was Henry Grasser, a notorious bad man who had complete control of the Osage liquor traffic, and who was reputed to keep certain woods surrounding his land lighted up by means of a privately owned power plant, where he worked a gang of criminals who had fled from all over the United States day and night in making illicit liquor. Grasser died in an automobile accident prior to the investigation of the murder cases, and at the time of his death had on his person \$15,000.00 in cash. He is supposed to have been murdered by a notorious bandit who was with him at the time of the accident, but no investigation was ever made by local authorities, as his death was considered a good riddance. There was a gaping wound under his left armpit.

A bandit who was serving time in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, recalled while being interviewed by a Special Agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation that during the period of the murders he attended a gathering of thirty-two nationally known bank bandits and train robbers in a group of woods in the Osage Country, where they were in hiding as fugitives from justice, and during their sojourn they often engaged in pistol practice, skill in the use of pistols being absolutely necessary to their profession at this time.

Prior to the Osage Indian tribe becoming immensely wealthy overnight through discovery of oil on the reservation, William K. Hale, known as "Bill" Hale and sometimes dubbed "King of the Osage", drifted into this territory from Texas, an uneducated and more or less uncouth cow puncher and cattle thief, but possessed of a domineering personality. He finally succeeded in controlling 45,000 acres of select Osage grazing land by means of leases, and acquired 5,000 acres outright, in addition to controlling a bank at Fairfax, Oklahoma, and owning a part in a store there, growing immensely wealthy from his dealings with the Osage Indians. Eventually he became a millionaire, who dominated local politics and seemingly could not be punished for any of the many crimes which were laid at his door. His method of building up

power and prestige was to put various individuals under obligation to him by means of gifts or favors shown to them. Consequently, he had a tremendous following in the vicinity composed not only of the riffraff element which had drifted in, but of many good and substantial citizens.

The various characters concerned in this story were as follows:

WILLIAM ("BILL") KING HALE, master mind behind the five murders investigated, 55 year old typical westerner of medium stature, black hair, turning grey, prepossessing figure, neat dresser, ruddy complexion, who affected a military air, with shoulders back and chest out, self-confident, the owner of many fine horses, having a home in Fairfax, Oklahoma, and a ranch house near Grayhorse, Oklahoma, in the middle of his leaseholdings.

JOHN RAMSEY, bootlegger, fifty year old typical rough type western criminal, who had served a penitentiary term for rustling cattle, former member of the notorious Henry Grammer gang, actual murderer of William E. Smith, Rita Smith, Nettie Brookshire, and Henry Ryan.

ERNEST BURKHART, "Squaw Man", in his early thirties, nephew of W. K. Hale, who completely dominated him, a weak-willed individual who did his uncle's bidding; married to Nellie Burkhart, full-blood Osage Indian, daughter of Lizzie Q, wealthy in her own right; a very friendly individual who seemingly thought he had done no wrong in participating in the crimes he admitted; implicated in the murder of Henry Ryan and of the W. E. Smith family. He was the weak link in William K. Hale's organization, the first to confess the true state of affairs, giving Special Agents of this Bureau their first real lead in the case, actually implicating Hale and Ramsey.

KELSEY MORRISON, "Squaw Man", 35 years old, a neat-appearing man of very bad reputation, married to a full-blood Osage Indian woman named Katherine Cole; admitted murder of Anna Brown, with help of Bryan Burkhart at instigation of W. K. Hale.

BRIAN BURKHART, a "Squaw Man", younger brother of Ernest Burkhart, who turned State's evidence in the State courts.

DEWEY SELPH, "Squaw Man", former husband of Cecilia Bigheart, full-blood Osage woman, who was hired by W. K. Hale to murder an Indian, but who lost his nerve and later confessed.

LIZZIE C, also known as Lizzie Kile, full-blood Osage Indian between 70 and 80 years of age, immensely wealthy in her own right, mother of ARMA BROWN, MOLLIE BURKHART, wife of ERNEST BURKHART, and RITA SMITH, wife of W. E. "BILL" SMITH. This Indian woman and her three daughters were all immensely wealthy, each being the owner of Osage head rights, and receiving royalties from oil and gas wells.

The Government's theory in the investigation of the murder cases, which subsequently proved to be substantially true, was that W. K. Hale dominated his nephew, Ernest Burkhart, the husband of Mollie Burkhart, and planned to do away with Lizzie C and her remaining two daughters, and finally Burkhart's own wife, so that Burkhart would fall heir to the head rights of all four, Burkhart being under the domination of Hale, who would, if necessary, eventually have killed Burkhart, and as a result acquired the wealth of these four Indian women.

Just prior to the investigation of the Osage Indian Murder Cases by the United States Bureau of Investigation, two dozen Osage Indians died under suspicious circumstances, and the entire Osage Indian Tribe, as well as the white citizens of that locality, were terror-stricken and in fear of their lives. The tribal council passed a resolution requesting the aid of the Government in solving these murders. The fact that law-abiding citizens actually feared to converse with the agents of this Bureau relative to the recent killings made the task of the Bureau's agents extremely difficult.

Information obtained by an agent of this Bureau indicated that in connection with the mysterious deaths of a large number of Indians the perpetrators of the crimes would get an Indian drunk, have a doctor examine him and pronounce him intoxicated, following which a morphine hypodermic would be injected into the

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Indian, and after the doctor's departure the members of the gang would inject an enormous amount of morphine under the armpit of the drunken Indian, which would result in his death. The doctor's certificate would subsequently read, "death from alcoholic poisoning".

To further complicate the task of the Bureau in investigating these murders, Burt Lawson, a convict confined in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, made several confessions to the murders, in which he claimed to have been employed by Hale to murder W. E. Smith and his family. Pains-taking investigation by Bureau agents developed that Hale had concocted this story himself, by which Lawson pretended to implicate Hale, knowing full well that Hale could prove a perfect alibi for Lawson and thereby absolve himself at the same time. It was necessary to disprove the details of Lawson's confession before investigation looking toward the development of the true facts could be commenced.

In addition to this effort on Hale's part to mislead the investigators, he had hit upon the further plan of throwing suspicion upon one Roy Bunch, who had been intimately associated with Ross's wife for a year or two prior to Ross's murder and who had subsequently married her. Circumstances did point the finger of suspicion at Bunch and it was necessary for Bureau agents to prove Bunch innocent before they proved Ransay and Hale guilty of the murder. This was accomplished through the confessions of Ernest Barthart and John Ransay, which vindicated Bunch. False rumors and statements on the part of William E. Hale's myriads of friends and henchmen caused Bureau agents to make needless trips to California, New Mexico, Old Mexico, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, and Arizona.

Anna Brown, daughter of Lizzie Q, was murdered on the night of May 23, 1921, about three miles from the town of Fairfax, Oklahoma, on the pasturelands of William E. Hale, and her body thrown into the bottom of a small ravine. Investigation by Bureau agents revealed that on the night of her murder she had been plied with liquor by Kelsey Morrison and Bryan Barthart, who, accompanied by Catherine Cole Morrison, full-

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3 Roan's body was discovered several days later sitting in an
4 upright position in his car frozen stiff. The facts
5 surrounding the murder of Roan were proven by John Ramsey's
6 own confession, as well as by the confession of Ernest
7 Burkhart, nephew of William K. Hale, who was present at all
8 negotiations relative to the murder of Roan.
9

10 John Ramsey did not even know Roan's name at the
11 time he murdered him, but had simply had Roan pointed out to
12 him on the streets of Fairfax, Oklahoma, by William K. Hale
13 as the Indian whom Hale wanted killed. Hale was a self-
14 appointed pall-bearer at Roan's funeral, and Ramsey, the
15 actual murderer, upon viewing the body of Roan, pretended to
16 be deeply affected.
17

18 Henry Roan was the only one of the five
19 individuals proved to have been murdered at the instigation of
20 William K. Hale who was killed on restricted Indian land,
21 thereby giving the United States jurisdiction over the crime.
22 Roan's murdered body was found upon the restricted homestead
23 allotment of Rosa Little Star, a full-blood Osage, whose
24 Indian name was Tom-Pah Pe.
25

26 After the death of Anna Brown and Henry Roan
27 William E. ("Bill") Smith stated openly that he believed
28 William K. Hale had killed Henry Roan and Anna Brown, and that
29 Hale would not hesitate to kill the rest of Eissie G's children.
30 A short time prior to his murder Smith had had a violent alter-
31 cation with Hale relative to a \$6,000.00 indebtedness which
32 Smith claimed was due him by Hale. Shortly after this alter-
33 cation, on the night of March 10, 1923, the house of William E.
34 Smith was blown up by having a five-gallon keg of nitro-glycerin
35 exploded under it, blowing the house to atoms and killing Rita
36 Smith, wife of W. E. Smith, and Nettie Brookshire, a white
37 servant girl instantaneously, and horribly mangled the body of
38 William E. Smith, who lived a few hours, however, and stated his
39 belief that Hale had had him killed.
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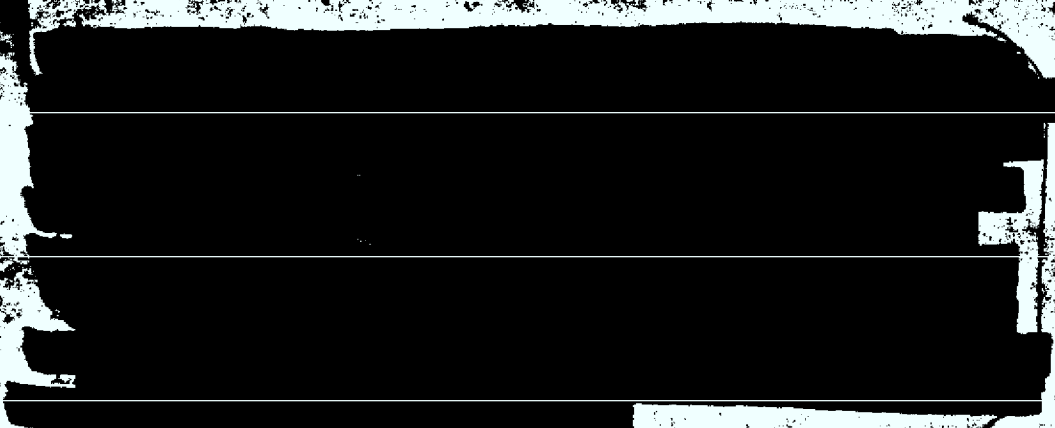
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2 It was developed through investigation by Bureau agents
3 that William K. Hale had hired John Ramsey and Ice
4 Kirby to murder William R. Smith and his wife and had
5 subsequently paid Ramsey approximately \$1600.00 for performing
6 the murder. These facts were proven by means of a confession
7 obtained from John Ramsey himself, as well as the confession
8 of Ernest Barkhart, who pointed out Smith's house to Ramsey
9 and Kirby, acting under instructions from Hale, and who sought
10 out Ramsey on the day of this murder to inform him that William
11 K. Hale and Henry Grammer, in order to allay suspicion, were go-
12 ing to Fort Worth, Texas, to a cattlemen's conference, and that
13 William R. Smith and his wife should be murdered that night.
14 It developed further that William K. Hale had attempted to hire
15 the notorious outlaw, Al Spencer, to commit this murder, but
16 Spencer refused, stating that while he had no objection at
17 robbing a train or blowing a safe and killing individuals in
18 such an attempt, he had not sunk so low as to murder helpless
19 individuals for money. After Spencer's refusal Hale attempted
20 to hire "Blackie" Thompson, Dick Gregg, and his father, John
21 Gregg, to murder William Smith and his family, all of whom
22 refused.

23
24 William K. Hale became afraid that "Ice" Kirby, who parti-
25 cipated in the murder of the Smith family as set out above and
26 who actually placed the five-gallon can of nitro-glycerin under
27 the Smith house and set it off, would make known Hale's connection
28 with these murders, and accordingly persuaded Kirby to attempt
29 the robbery of a grocery store near the Kansas-Oklahoma state line,
30 assuring Kirby that the owner of the grocery store possessed cer-
31 tain valuable goods. The owner of the store was in turn informed
32 of the exact hour of the contemplated robbery, and as Kirby forced
33 entrance into the grocery store through a window, greeted him with
34 several loads of buckshot from a shotgun, thereby removing a
35 witness who could have implicated Hale and his associates.
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In addition to the solution of the murders themselves, Bureau agents discovered that Nellie Burkhart, full-blood Ojibwa Indian wife of Ernest Burkhart, who alone remained between William Hale's nephew, Ernest Burkhart, and the fortune of the Lizzie E. Family, at the time the Government commenced its investigation of the case was dying from what was believed to be slow poisoning. It is an established fact that as soon as she was gotten out of the control of Burkhart and Hale she immediately regained her health and is living today.

In conducting investigations of these murders one Special Agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation posed as an Indian medicine man in an undercover investigation, claiming to be in search of relatives who had moved to Oklahoma several years before. He made a lot of medicine around Fairfax, consisting mostly of sweetened water, and was taken in by the Indians, visited in their homes, attended their ceremonies, thereby gaining much useful information. Not only did the agent acting as a medicine man in actually dispensing the sweetened water to the Indians gain their confidence and cooperation, but he also served as an Indian medicine man in the inner circle and tribal councils, helping them to make plans for the administration of their tribal problems and government.

3118

Another Special Agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation, working undercover on the case, posed as an insurance salesman and actually sold life insurance of a legitimate character, thereby gaining entrance to the homes of influential citizens and gathering useful information, which the citizens refused to give to government agents openly because of their fear of William E. Hale. In connection with this sale of life insurance, of course, information about the personal habits and other types of information available to insurance companies would be obtained, and frequently this information would have a direct bearing on the different angles of the case under investigation. This agent contacted William E. Hale himself under his guise of an insurance salesman, and almost succeeded in selling him a policy.

Still another Special Agent of the United States Bureau of Investigation played the part of a plain Texas cowboy, and established close association with many of Hale's intimates and employees, all of whom unknowingly contributed useful information. The agents of the United States Bureau of Investigation who were working undercover on this case often met in remote and dangerous places in the Ozark country, such as the woods previously used as a meeting place by Al Spencer and his outlaw gang, and Dead Man's Hill, where many murders and robberies had been plotted. Two agents of the United States Bureau of Investigation, together with a lieutenant of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification of Oklahoma, upon one occasion sat up for two nights and days with a convict witness before obtaining a statement from him. The interesting incidents occurring in the investigation and the trial of the guilty parties involved in these murders are too numerous to mention.

Burt Larson, whose "bogus" confession caused Bureau agents many hours of busy work, upon his release into custody of the agents, proved to be a glutton, who ate tea-bone steak and French-fried potatoes three times a day. Upon his first visit to a cafeteria, with agents, upon reaching the cashier he was found to have four pieces of pie and three pieces of cake upon his tray and complained of the fact that he had no room for a meat dish.

Dewey Selph, a material Government witness, testified to the fact that he was hired by William K. Hale to murder Kelsey Morrison's wife. He was released from the Syracuse, Kansas, Jail to testify, and while being held at Guthrie, Oklahoma, with other material witnesses who had been transferred from the Kansas State Penitentiary, he was kept in a jail cell of which all the bars were found to have been partly sawed. He showed his appreciation by breaking out of the sawed bars and was subsequently located by Bureau agents also only in his underclothing, attempting to hide in a barrel at a pressing shop at Pankaska, Oklahoma, where he was having his suit pressed. He gave as his reason for the jail break that he intended calling on a lady friend, who, incidentally, was his ex-wife, Cecilia Highart, full-blood Osage woman.

On another occasion Selph walked out on a drunken jailer taking with him the jailer's pistol, and afterwards stole an automobile, in which he made his escape. He was recaptured by Bureau agents at a subsequent date and returned to testify at the trial of Hale. Dewey Selph's next attempt to escape, after having been returned to the Arkansas State Penitentiary to complete a sentence there, resulted fatally for him.

While the trial was actually in progress a Bureau agent obtained information to the effect that Hale was receiving letters from a witness who had perjured himself at Hale's former trial. This agent searched Hale's cell and located in the bed-clothing two letters from the witness stating that he had perjured himself in Hale's behalf at the last trial and intended doing so again. This witness was subsequently sent to the State Penitentiary for life on a charge of murder, and the statements were introduced against Hale at his final trial.

An attorney for Hale located two tramps and carefully schooled them in helping prepare a defense for the trial of Hale. The alert agents of the Bureau discovered this situation, secured confessions from them, and thereby prevented their appearance at the trial. Some witnesses actually did testify voluntarily at the trial of Hale and Ramsey and received subsequent sentences because of their perjured testimony. Most noteworthy among them was P. C. Hester, who was given a sentence of two years in the Federal Penitentiary and fined \$100.00. Other friends and relatives of Hale were sentenced for being in contempt of court and for interfering with the legal progress of the court.

3120

John Ramsey, upon his trial for murder, offered an alibi to the effect that he was not in Fairfax, Oklahoma, on the date of the murder for which he was being tried. Investigation by agents of the Bureau resulted in the production of the hotel register of an old Indian woman who had formerly operated a hotel at Fairfax, Oklahoma, reflecting that Ramsey was actually registered in this hotel on the day of the murder. This Indian woman, it developed, had been furnished whiskey by a lawyer presumably working in the interest of Hale, in an attempt to have her change her testimony. This lawyer was subsequently sentenced to eighteen months in a Federal Penitentiary for this action on his part.

Upon the successful conclusion of the cases against Hale and Ramsey and the other individuals involved in the murders, the Osage Indians, through their tribal council, passed resolutions enrolled upon the records of the tribe, expressing their appreciation of the great service rendered by agents of the United States Bureau of Investigation in breaking up the vicious murder ring which had been preying upon that tribe for years.

William E. Hale and John Ramsey were tried four times - twice in the Federal District Court at Guthrie, Oklahoma, once in the Federal District Court at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and once in the Federal District Court at Muskogee, Oklahoma, resulting in their being convicted for the murder of Henry Roan and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. These two convictions were in the Federal Court, due to the fact that the United States had jurisdiction over the actual place where Henry Roan was murdered. Other sentences imposed in the state courts for murders over which the United States had no jurisdiction were Ernest Burkhart, life imprisonment for his part in the murder of William E. Smith and family; Kelsey Morrison, life imprisonment for the murder of Anna Brown, while Bryan Burkhart, brother of Ernest Burkhart, turned state's evidence in state court and was never convicted.

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3 It is interesting to note that upon the first trial
4 of Hale and Ramsey the Federal District Court ruled that it
5 had no jurisdiction over the case, only to be reversed by
6 the Supreme Court of the United States within the
7 comparatively short period of twenty-five days. From the
8 second trial of Hale and Ramsey in the Federal Court at
9 Guthrie a hung jury resulted. The case was retried at Okla-
10 homa City in the Federal District Court at Oklahoma City,
11 Oklahoma, and both Hale and Ramsey were convicted and given
12 life sentences. Hale appealed and had his conviction
13 reversed upon the ground that the case had been tried in the
14 wrong district, which decision automatically reversed Ramsey's
15 conviction also. Upon their last trial Hale and Ramsey asked
16 for a severance and were tried separately in the Federal
17 District Court at Muskogee, Oklahoma, resulting in conviction
18 and sentences as set forth above.

19
20 One other interesting sidelight to these cases is the
21 fact that "Billie" Hale, the beautiful daughter of W. K. Hale,
22 within a comparatively short time after her father had been
23 sent to the penitentiary, married a wealthy full-blood Osage
24 Indian, erected a home, and at present lives within a few
25 hundred yards from the spot where Anna Brown's murdered body
26 was found.
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U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

November 7, 1932.



NOV - 7 1932

WHDL:CCM
62-537

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

The original of the attached article was mailed to Mr. G. F. Zimmer, National Broadcasting Company, 120 East 57th Street, New York City, on November 2, 1932.

This article was dictated in the presence of Special Agent Frank S. Smith, who conducted a good part of the investigation involved in the case. Agent Smith read the completed article and stated that it was correct in every respect.

W. H. D. Lester
W. H. D. Lester.

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Handwritten notes in left margin:
G. F. Zimmer
National Broadcasting Company
120 East 57th Street
New York City

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NOV 9 - 1932

62-5033-788
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 9 1932
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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REC-1008

November 10, 1932.

Special Agent in Charge,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
1216 Smith-Young Tower Building,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the broadcast of the "Osage Indian Reservation Murder Cases" over the National Broadcasting System during the "Lucky Strike Hour" at 10:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, November 15.

Upon receipt of this letter the Bureau desires that you notify Special Agents Charles R. Davis, E. H. Parker, and J. A. Street of this broadcast in view of the fact that they participated actively in the investigation of the case.

Very truly yours,

Director.

W. H. S. S.

AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

RECORDED

62-5033-790

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 11 1932

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAILED

NOV 10 1932

FILE

3125

MAIL ROOM

November 10, 1932.

Special Agent in Charge,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Post Office Box 1533,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the broadcast
of the "Osage Indian Reservation Murder Cases"
over the National Broadcasting System on the
"Lucky Strike Hour" at 10:00 p.m., Eastern
Standard Time, Tuesday, November 15.

Upon receipt of this letter the Bureau
desires that you notify Special Agent Frank S.
Smith of this broadcast in view of the fact
that he participated actively in the investiga-
tion of the case.

Very truly yours,

Director. *W. H. D. S.*

RECEIVED
NOV 10 1932
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

62-5033-792
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 11 1932
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

3127

REC:HCB

November 15, 1932

Mr. Frank S. Smith,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Post Office Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, there
is inclosed herewith a copy of the writeup on the
Osage Indian Murders. This is not, however, in
its final form as prepared by the Bureau, although
the Bureau's draft is based on it.

Very truly yours,

Director.

W. A. D. S.

Incl. #325277

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W. A. D. S.
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62-5033-794	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 16 1932	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

NOV 16 1932
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box #1405,
Chicago, Illinois.

J
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NOV 18 1932

November 16, 1932.

Director,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is respectfully acknowledged of your letter dated November 10th, 1932, regarding broadcasting of the "Osage Indian Reservation Murder Cases"; wherein you requested that Special Agent J. V. Murphy be notified regarding the broadcast.

Please be advised that Agent Murphy was enroute from the San Antonio, Texas, district to Chicago, Illinois, and expected to arrive in Chicago November 15th, 1932, about noon. However, he encountered automobile trouble and a snow storm at Odell, Illinois, which delayed his return to headquarters and for which reason he was unable to hear the broadcasting program.

Agents George J. Starr, B. E. Sackett and the writer attended the radio program at the Bankers' Building here and noted with interest the facts as disclosed. Reports from numerous other employees attached to this office likewise indicate that the program was especially interesting and well received.

Very truly yours,

D. O. Smith

D. O. SMITH,

Acting Special Agent in Charge.

DOS/RMF

62-5033 - 795	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
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HHC:KLM
62-5033-795

November 22, 1932.

RECORDED

Mr. D. O. Smith,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Post Office Box 1405,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference is made to your letter dated November 16, 1932, in which you advise concerning favorable reaction on the part of employees of the Chicago Office with reference to the broadcasting of the Osage Indian Reservation Murder Cases.

I am pleased to have received this information and to learn of the favorable reaction on Special Agents attached to the Chicago Office.

Cordially yours,

Director.

H.H. C.
W.H. Davis

RECORDED
NOV 23 1932

3131

United States Bureau of Investigation

Room 422. 11/22 1932.

To: Director
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Edwards
Miss Gandy
Miss O'Brien
 Chief, Div. 8
Supervisor, Steno. Pool.
Inspector
Supervisor
Secretary

*8 cases reported
Miss O'Brien*

H. H. Clegg

H. H. Clegg.

3132

U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

DAILY OKLAHOMAN, OKLA.
CITY, OKLA.
11-15-32.

Osage Murder To
Be Dramatized On
Network Program

Story of the famous Osage murder mysteries has been dramatized and will be broadcast over the NBC network Tuesday night on the 10 o'clock hour. It was announced Monday. The program may be heard over WKY from 8 to 9 o'clock.

Starting with the dynamiting of the Smith home in which several lives were snuffed out and including the murder of Henry Roan, the dramatized story will contain thrilling moments in the manhunt which lasted several years, leading to the trial and conviction of W. K. Hale, King of the Osage hills, John Ramsey, Ernest Burkhart, and others.

Facts for the broadcast were taken from the records of the federal bureau of investigation, but fictitious names of the officers and killers were said to be used in the radio story. W. C. Culy, agent in charge of the bureau here, said operatives in the bureau have been notified to listen in.

62-5033-796

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U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 1535
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
November 15, 1932.



NOV 19 1932

RHC:MMB.

Director,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Osage Murder Broadcast.

There is inclosed clipping taken from The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, November 15, 1932, relative to the Bureau's broadcast of the Osage murder case.

It will be observed that the United States Bureau of Investigation is not mentioned therein, although I specifically informed the editor that my title was that of Special Agent in Charge, United States Bureau of Investigation. I do not like to jump him about this at this time as I am only just beginning to get something into the local papers.

With regard to the last sentence in the article, I did not tell the newspaper man that operatives in Oklahoma had been notified to listen in. In answer to his query as to how I received the information, I merely advised him that I had received a letter from the Bureau advising that the story would be broadcast on this date.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Colvin

R. H. Colvin,
Special Agent in Charge.

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NOV 28 1932

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

RECORDED
5033-796

November 22, 1932.

RECORDED
NOV 28 1932

Mr. R. H. Colvin,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Post Office Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Colvin:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 15, 1932,
with which you enclosed a clipping taken from the Daily Oklahoman
of Oklahoma City, relative to the Bureau's broadcast of the Orange
murder case.

Permit me to express my appreciation of your courtesy
in transmitting the newspaper clipping in question.

Sincerely yours,

Director.

H.A.C.
W.H.D.

RECEIVED
NOV 23 1932
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Okla.,
Nov. 16, 1932.

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Director,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Because of my personal interest in the Bureau and of my connection with the Osage Murder case, I am addressing you concerning what I term a great injustice done the Bureau in the feeble efforts made to dramatize this important case by radio on last evening's program. This case is vivid in the minds of many people, especially in this section, and I have heard repeated adverse comment, in each instance the opinion being that the version of this case as dramatized places the Bureau in rather a ridiculous light.

If you will pardon my suggestion, if not already contemplated, it is believed that this case if presented by a good reader over the radio would no doubt please the listeners. It appears to me that the dramatization was probably based principally on unfounded spooky rambles of Mrs. John Kinney, the wife of a full blood Osage who, you will no doubt recall, annoyed all branches of the Government in the investigation of the Osage case with her wild and groundless theories, and not on the true facts as set up and presented by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

F. S. Smith,
Special Agent.

RECORDED
&
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62-5032-77
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 22 1932
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
VOLUNTARY DEPARTMENT

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62-777
EXDL:LC

November 21, 1932.

W. F. S. Smith,
United States Bureau of Investigation,
Post Office Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of November 16, 1932, relative to the recent broadcast of the Osage Murder case.

The Bureau appreciates the spirit in which this letter was written and regrets very keenly that its presentation has met with adverse criticism throughout the Osage country. You will no doubt be surprised to learn that in other sections of the country the broadcast received most favorable comment and was considered to be the most effective of any of the cases presented to date.

You will remember no doubt that an exact copy of the story prepared by the Bureau and approved by you was forwarded to the National Broadcasting Company. They find it necessary in the presentation of practically every case to take certain dramatic licenses and liberties which naturally must grate harshly upon the ears of those who know the true facts in the particular case.

The Bureau agrees with your suggestion that the presentation of this case could be more adequately provided for by a narrative or monologue presentation over the radio and would be very pleased to have some radio station in the vicinity of Oklahoma City broadcast this particular case in narrative form, using a copy of the story of the case which has already been forwarded to you as the basis for such presentation.

The Bureau regrets that the National Broadcasting Company presentation of the Osage case did not measure up to your expectations or to that of the listeners familiar with all the facts in the case and expresses the hope that suitable arrangements can be made by the Oklahoma City office for its subsequent presentation in narrative form as mentioned above.

Very truly yours,

cc - SAC, Oklahoma City.

Director. *W. H. R. S.*

813