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sooner. Oil was flowing faster and faster from the Osage wells, and the "head rights" were as good as a diamond mine in a man's back yard—that is, if a man could get control over a few of them.

There was old Lizzie Q. She was a full-blooded Osage worth maybe \$330,000. Lord knows how much more she would be worth in another few years. That old squaw had three "head rights" herself; and her daughters held one and one-sixth "head rights" each.

Now, Hale mused, suppose old Lizzie Q. should die. And just suppose that two of her daughters, Anna Brown and Rita Smith, should die along with Rita's husband. Who would inherit all that money, maybe half a million dollars or more?

The answer was simple. The fortune—most of it, anyway—would go to the third daughter, Mollie. And Mollie was married to Hale's nephew, Ernest Burkhart. Then if Mollie should die, there would be no trouble handling Ernest. He was a weak-willed, chucklehead anyway.

Hunters found Anna Brown's decomposed body in a ravine near Fairfax in May, 1921. She had been shot in the head. Her estate was worth \$100,000. Old Lizzie Q. died two months later, apparently of natural causes; her estate was divided between Rita Smith and Mollie Burkhart. And just as the verse said, now there were only two little Indians.

Hale was a methodical man. He was in no hurry about rounding up Lizzie Q.'s family estate. Before any more moves in that direction, there was another murder job to be done.

Anna Brown had a cousin—a picturesque full-blooded Osage Indian named Henry Roan Horse who liked to wear his hair down his back in plaits. On February 6, 1923, Roan Horse's body was found outside Fairfax, slumped in the front seat of his car. Henry's brains had been blown out for reasons known best to Hale.

Two months later, while Hale was at the Texas Fat Cattle Show, Fairfax was shaken by the explosion which killed Bill and Rita Smith and their maid. After this, there remained only one little Indian—Mollie Burkhart.

But the blast that shook Fairfax also shook the Osage Tribal Council to action. In desperation, the Indians appealed to Washington. A lawyer composed their resolution, which said:

WHEREAS, several members of the Osage Tribe have been murdered . . . and many other crimes committed against members of the tribe . . . BE IT . . . RESOLVED that the Honorable Secretary of the Interior be requested to obtain the services of the Department of Justice in capturing and prosecuting the murderers of the members of the Osage Tribe. . . .

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The appeal was relayed to the FBI and the order went out launching an investigation that was to last for three years and become one of the classic manhunts in FBI history.

FBI agents moved into Fairfax and found an almost impenetrable wall of fear. People were afraid to talk and witnesses who might have given information had long since disappeared. There were rumors which sent the agents off for days at a time on false leads. Someone, they knew, was deliberately "planting" stories to confuse their search. But the hunt continued.

No one in Fairfax paid any particular attention when four strangers drifted into town one by one, a cattle buyer, an insurance salesman, an oil prospector and an Indian herb doctor. They went about their business, minding their own affairs.

Weeks passed without a break in the case. But then a signal was passed and the four strangers met one night in the badlands to pool their information and plan their next moves. The "cattle buyer" was the oldest, and he was the FBI agent in charge for this special undercover detail.

After hearing the reports, he summed them up: "Here's where we stand: Anna Brown was killed on unrestricted [non-government] land and so were Bill and Rita Smith. We have no jurisdiction there. But Henry Roan Horse was killed on restricted [government] land—and that's our case. If we can break that case, I figure we'll find all the killers." The others agreed.

Months passed. The four strangers often met under the stars in the Osage hills to exchange information and each time they met they had a bit more information about the circumstances surrounding the murders. Gradually the picture was taking form. And the man in the picture was William K. Hale. Finally, the agent in charge told his men: "Hale is our man without a doubt. He had a \$25,000 insurance policy on Henry Roan Horse's life. And it looks as if he was working to get the estates of Lizzie O. and her daughters centered in the hands of that nephew of his. But we have to prove it."

Prove it they did. The wall against which they had pounded so long crumbled slowly but steadily. From the badlands came a tip that a certain convict in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary knew something about the murders. The agents found that the convict, who hated Hale, was ready to talk. He said, "Go see Ernest Burkhart. He can tell you everything you want to know."

This dovetailed with other information collected over the months. The agents confronted Burkhart with what they had, and what they suspected. Hale's nephew was the weak link. He broke and told the

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14 agents how Hale had dominated him all his life. He named the killers  
15 of Henry Roan Horse and the Smiths; and he said his uncle had plotted  
16 the murders.

17 One by one the killers confessed. In each case they pointed the fin-  
18 ger at Hale. And the story unfolded of how "Ace" Kirby had been  
19 double-crossed after he blew up the Smith home.

20 But Hale fought back in one of the bitterest criminal trials ever  
21 held in the Southwest. He boasted when arrested that he could raise  
22 a million-dollar bond if necessary, and he must have spent a chunk of  
23 money. The courtroom battles were highlighted by charges of bribery,  
24 perjury and threats against witnesses.

25 Bill Hale's battery of lawyers almost succeeded in winning freedom  
26 for him. The Federal District Court held in his first trial that the gov-  
27 ernment had no jurisdiction, but the U. S. Supreme Court reversed this  
28 decision. The second trial ended in a hung jury after a defense witness  
29 gave perjured testimony. The perjurer was convicted.

30 Hale was convicted on the third trial, but still the fight hadn't been  
31 won. The verdict was set aside on the ground that the trial had been  
32 held in the wrong district. On the fourth try Hale was convicted and  
33 sentenced to life imprisonment.<sup>1</sup> It was January 26, 1929.

34 In Osage County, the Indians' Tribal Council assembled again. And  
35 this time they adopted a resolution voicing "our sincere gratitude for  
36 the splendid work done in the matter of the investigating and bringing  
37 to justice the parties charged with the murders of . . . members of  
38 the Osage Tribe of Indians. . . ."

39 The bloody reign of the "King of the Osage Hills" had ended. The  
40 FBI had closed one of the most fantastic cases in its files.

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43 Page 118 of "The FBI Story,  
44 A Report to the People" by  
45 Don Whitehead

46  
47 <sup>1</sup> Hale was released from prison on parole in July, 1947.

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49 Excerpt from page 336  
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Date September 3, 1954 Time 4:20

Miss Rose Bigman, New York City.

tele. through operator at New York.

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS

When advised of the Director's absence from the city, Miss Bigman asked to speak with Mr. Tolson; she was advised that Mr. Tolson was also out of the city. Miss Bigman then asked if she could speak with Mr. Nichols and the call was so transferred.

bht

Miss Bigman had had a call from Walter Winchell telling her to get in touch with Mr. Nichols and find out why he has not received the material he has been waiting for re the Osage cases. Mr. Nichols told her the material was mailed to Mr. Winchell to the New York office on August 12.

She then looked thru accumulated mail on her desk; said she had just gotten back to work yesterday and mail had not been opened while she was away - and found the letter.

hwg

*See  
Re: Bigman's office  
9-1-70  
File per O'Connor*

*INDIAN MURDER CASES*

62-573-  
NOT RECORDED  
145 SEP 2 1970

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ENCLOSURE  
MICROFILM  
SEP 3 1970

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NEW YORK MIRROR  
DAILY AND SUNDAY

Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrow  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman

235 EAST 45TH STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
MURRAY HILL TELEPHONE

September 6, 1954

Dear [REDACTED] b7c

This will acknowledge receipt of the memo regarding the Osage Indian case. We have been vacationing--which is why it was not acknowledged sooner.

regards,

[REDACTED]

EXP. PROC.

SEP 6 1954

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[REDACTED]

Oct. 15, 1976

Public Information Officer  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir:

I'm working on a book about the Osage Indians and want to include a chapter on the wave of Osage Indian murders which took place in and around Fairfax, Okla., in the 1920s.

Nearly three months ago I wrote you to ask for any information you might be able to supply on the episode. I also asked whether the account by Don Whitehead in The FBI Story stood substantially unchanged.

Not having received a reply, I assume that my original letter went astray. I will be most grateful to you for any help you can supply.

ST-131 REC-81

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

PS:

[REDACTED]

b7c

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November 10, 1976

ST-131 DE-43

REC-82

62-5033-830

4-13

[REDACTED]

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear [REDACTED] b7c

In reply to your letter of October 15th, I assure you that Don Whitehead's account of the murders in Osage County, Oklahoma, in the 1920s is accurate. Chapter 13 of his book, "The FBI Story," correctly depicts the tragic sequence of events to which you refer.

William King Hale was tried and convicted for the murder of Henry Roan before Federal Judge F. E. Kennamer at Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma; the guilty verdict was returned on January 26, 1929. Judge Kennamer subsequently sentenced Hale to life imprisonment. A review of available transcripts of that trial should yield for you additional details of this case from contemporaneous testimony.

I wish to point out that while Hale was tried in Federal Court for Roan's murder, he and his associates were alleged to have been involved in other murders which were not within Federal jurisdiction. Perhaps local court records would also contain data of interest to you.

I might also suggest that you consider initiating contact with the Pawhuska, Oklahoma, Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Osage Indian Agency in that city, for any information they may be able to provide you regarding this matter.

Our files indicate that considerable newspaper coverage was given to this case, particularly in the Tulsa,

1 - Mr. Moore - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Malmfeldt - Enclosure (detached)  
NOTE: Bufiles contain no derogatory information regarding [REDACTED] who was extended assistance and cooperation in preparation of the terrorism article to which he refers. Bufile 62-5033 covers the case to which [REDACTED] refers, which was included in Don Whitehead's book, "The FBI Story." Foregoing research leads for [REDACTED] extracted from a review of the file on this case.

WRR:kls/mab (5)

CONTINUED PAGE 2

NOV 10 1976  
FBI

- 46 Assoc. Dir.
- 47 Dep. AD Adm.
- 48 Dep. AD Inv.
- 49 Exec. Dir.
- 50 Adm. Serv.
- 51 Ext. Affairs
- 52 Fin. & Pers.
- 53 Gen. Inv.
- 54 Ident.
- 55 Insp.
- 56 Intell.
- 57 Laboratory
- 58 Legal Coun.
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- 60 Rec. Mgnt.
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- 64 Director's Sec'y

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Mr. [REDACTED]

Oklahoma, "Daily World," and the Pawhuska, Oklahoma, "Daily Journal Capital." Therefore, material in the morgue files of these newspapers may be of value to you.

While I regret that your previous letter evidently did not reach us, I trust that the foregoing suggestions will be of assistance to you in your undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

*M. W. Moore, Jr.*  
Donald W. Moore, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
External Affairs Division



FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT George Jackson Murders

FILE NO. 42-5033

SECTION NO. Sub A

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# Osages Protest Freedom Move By Mass Killer

Ernest George Burkhart, serving life in prison for his part in a plot to wipe out a group of oil-rich Osage Indians encountered opposition Thursday in his bid for a parole.

Burkhart, 57, is one of 27 convicts, including 10 lifers, who will be considered for clemency by the Pardon and Parole Board at its October 26-27 meeting.

The Osage Tribal Council passed a resolution at a special meeting Thursday asking that Burkhart not be paroled.

Burkhart and his uncle, W. K. Hale, were charged with murdering several Indians to gain possession of their wealth. Hale was sentenced to life in federal prison and Burkhart began serving a state term for life in 1926.

*[Handwritten signature]*

The Dallas Office  
Citation No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Edition \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Page: \_\_\_\_\_

EDITOR: CARL J. STUBBS  
CC DIVISION

WILLIAM J. HALL, JR.  
MURDER OF OSAGE INDIAN

BUFILE: 62-5039  
OCFILE: 57-1

NOV - 25

62-5039 - 4

OCT 25 1962

## Unique Deception Methods Used By Federal Agents in Solving Mysterious Cases Revealed Here

Although agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation often find it necessary to resort to disguise in "cracking" difficult cases, their "disguises" are never as obvious and easy of detection as those Sherlock Holmes is supposed to have used, according to W. Guy Banister, special agent in charge of the Butte office of the FBI.

"Agents occasionally find it necessary to resort to unusual tactics in their investigations, but they seldom resort to disguises such as black mustaches and dark glasses," Banister said.

One of the most unusual and

successful investigations conducted by G-men was on the Osage Indian reservation in Oklahoma in 1922 and 1923, according to Banister.

During the two years preceding 1922 the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C. received a communication from the chiefs of the Osage Indian tribal council asking the "Great White Father" to investigate a series of deaths on the reservation.

Agents went to the reservation to investigate. They quickly be-

(Continued on Page Seven)

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## Unique Deception Methods Used By Federal Agents in Solving Mysterious Cases Revealed Here

(Continued From Page One)

came convinced that a "murder syndicate" consisting of a group of white men was and had been operating. More than a dozen Indians, both men and women, had died under mysterious circumstances, agents learned. All of the victims were immensely wealthy from royalty rights to almost 10,000 oil wells which were spouting forth millions of gallons of liquid wealth.

In several cases the victims were young Indian women who had been married shortly before their deaths to white men. Agents became convinced that the murders of the women were plotted by the gang before the wedding ceremonies.

Indians and white residents of the reservation were extremely hesitant to talk about the deaths. They feared that they, too, might become victims.

Agents sent on the investigation were able to speak the language of the Indians on the reservation and were those familiar with tribal customs and traditions.

They decided that it would be necessary to use unusual tactics in "breaking" the case.

One agent became an Indian medicine man. His skin was painted and he donned suitable clothing. A second agent posed as a Texas cattle buyer, seeking to purchase stock. A third agent acted as an insurance salesman.

During the long investigation which ultimately brought life sentences to four white men, the pseudo "medicine man," "insur-

ance salesman" and "cattle buyer" found it necessary to meet in remote canyons and "hide-outs" of the reservation.

The "medicine man" was so successful that he finally sat in the inner tribal council and actually helped pass resolutions, taking part in the Indian administration affairs. The "insurance salesman" actually sold life insurance during the investigation.

Serving life sentences after being convicted of murders in connection with the Osage case are William K. Hale, who was called the "King of the Osage," John Ramsey, Ernest Burkhart and Kelsey Morrison, records of the FBI reveal, according to Banister.

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DATE

# Unique Deception Methods Used By Federal Agents in Solving Mysterious Cases Revealed Here

8

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**DLMURE**  
This Beautiful  
Daughter of the  
Osage Tribe Is  
Typical of the  
Indian of High  
Mentality and Cul-  
ture. It Is Her Kind  
the Government Sur-  
rounds with Fatherly  
Protection.







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The signal fires flared from  
the camp of an Evil Spirit that was stalking the land . . . . The  
spirit of Anna Brown . . . in hiding were a band of outlaws who looked  
upon the new wealth of the Osages."—Drawing by Louis Biedermann.



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**TERROR AND TRAGEDY**

*"That night the tom-toms beat and signa  
hill to hill—telling all Indians to beware  
medicine man called upon the spirit of A  
with greedy, covaricious eyes upon the*

*...es face  
an old  
Brown  
...ath of the*







sideration in a later chapter. But there is undoubtedly a more significant picture of the secret service's relentlessness, in the tracking down of criminals, in the case of the Osage Indian murders.

This series of diabolical crimes was the outgrowth of a curious social condition within the reservation. The stalwart traditions and customs of the Osage tribe suffered greatly a few years ago when oil was discovered on the reservation. Before that time, each Osage Indian received a total annual payment from the government of \$160

a year. He was content to live in a hut and wear the blankets and gaudy trappings of his forefathers.

But with the advent of oil all that changed. Suddenly 2,229 enrolled members of the tribe found themselves fantastically wealthy. They turned from traditions to the ways of the pale face. They abandoned their humble huts and erected mansions. They bought expensive automobiles and delved into a gay life which would

have horrified their forefathers. They called their new and gaudy display of living, "the pale face's civilization."

Then one day an Indian was found murdered in his home. He was an unimportant individual and the reservation was only mildly excited. But a few days later another Indian—this one a rich one—was killed and within a month a dozen Indians—all rich—died suddenly and mysteriously. The examining doctor's certificate usually read "death from alcoholic poisoning."

But the Osages began to fear that some evil power was hanging over them. As the mysterious deaths increased to twenty—and then thirty—the richest of the Osages, who had embraced "the pale face civilization," began to hark back to the superstitions of their ancestors. They appealed to the medicine men of the tribe and in every mansion loud incantations called upon The Great Spirit to lift the pall of doom that hung over the reservation.

The climax came when Anna Brown, beautiful Osage princess, started out for a drive in her expensive automobile. She was seen no more until her body was found crumpled under the steering wheel. There was a bullet hole in the back of her head.

So now the Osage Indians sought the methods of their ancestors to proclaim their terror and sorrow. That night the tom-toms beat and signal fires flared from hill to hill—telling all Indians to beware of "the Evil Spirit" that was stalking the land. Squaws hid indoors and kept their children close to them while they shivered with fear.

For no one knew when or where "the Evil Spirit" would strike next. The medicine man performing an elaborate ceremony over the body of Anna Brown, had called upon his spirit to drive away this strange menace to the tribe's happiness. But Anna Brown's spirit didn't answer.

THE United States Bureau of Investigation was notified of Anna Brown's murder and immediately a special agent was despatched to investigate. But the agent found that the superstitions and fears of the Osages hampered him. No one dared to talk. The special agent reported to Washington that at the time it was impossible to make any headway against the mood of terror enveloping the Osage hills.

For a few weeks there was no more violence and Indians began to think that the Evil Spirit would no longer molest them. Then one day Charles Whitehorn, a popular young, unblemished Osage, was found dead in his car. Another mystery. No solution.

But since Whitehorn was a close friend of Anna Brown, the latter's relatives determined to investigate on their own. The other Indians might cry that Anna Brown and Whitehorn were victims of the "the Evil Spirit," but Anna Brown's relatives were educated Indians and had other theories. Someone, they said among themselves, was trying to destroy the family in order to get hold of its immense wealth.

For Anna's mother, known as Lizzie Q, was one of the richest women on the reservation. One of her daughters, Mollie Burkhart, rich in her own right, was married to a man named Ernest Burkhart, nephew of William Hale, a white man and the most powerful individual in the Osage country, controlling land, oil and politics. Her second daughter, also rich, was the wife of Will Smith, wealthy Osage chieftain.

(It is important to note here that the Osage Indians have made a practice in recent years of adopting the names of white men. This accounts for the presence of such Anglo-Saxon names as Smith and Brown in full-blooded Osage Indian families.)

0 Smith took it upon himself to direct  
1 the private investigation and aiding  
2 him was Henry Roan, a handsome,  
3 popular Osage who was credited by  
4 his people with having powers to peer  
5 into the future and foretell events.  
6 He was, in other words, an unofficial  
7 "medicine man."

8 Whether the investigation of Smith  
9 and Roan got close to the solution of  
0 the long series of murders will never  
1 be known. For one day Roan's lifeless  
2 body was found in a canyon, slumped  
3 over the wheel of his car. The "evil  
4 spirit" had claimed another.

5 **ENRAGED**, Will Smith went before  
6 the Tribal Council and demanded  
7 that the murderer be tracked down  
8 and killed. When he was greeted with  
9 the old superstitious explanation:  
0 "Evil Spirit," he roared out:

1 "No! There is no evil spirit except  
2 one in human form!"

3 "Name him. Dare name him!"  
4 the Tribal officers demanded.

5 But Will Smith knew he dared not  
6 speak. He told his wife that night, as  
7 they sat in the living room of their  
8 luxurious home, that unless the Tribal  
9 Council acted immediately, he would  
0 speak and name the fiend who held  
1 the reservation in a state of terror.

2 Midnight drew near and Mr. and Mrs.  
3 Smith retired, as did their domestic

4 servant, Nettie Brookshire, a pretty white girl.

5 A few minutes after midnight there was a  
6 terrific explosion; a great sheet of flame en-  
7 veloped the house. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, as well  
8 as their maid, were blown into eternity.

9 The Tribal Council knew it must act at last.  
0 Already twenty-seven Indians had suffered  
1 violent deaths and not one of them had been  
2 solved. The Tribal Chieftain said:

3 "We must appeal to the white father in  
4 Washington. Our people, once peaceful and  
5 happy, are afraid of their lives. They dare not  
6 move from their homes and no one knows when he  
7 will be called to the Happy Hunting Grounds."

8 Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Bureau of  
9 Investigation sent out several special agents with  
0 word that the murderer or murderers must be  
1 found. Since it was plain no Indian would dare  
2 speak his real thoughts to an agent, in fear of  
3 the consequences, the agents must disguise them-  
4 selves and the purpose of their visit.

5 One special agent posed as an Indian  
6 medicine man, claiming to be in search of rela-  
7 tives who had moved to Oklahoma several years  
8 before. He made a lot of medicine, consisting most-  
9 ly of sweetened water, and was taken in by the  
0 Indians, visited in their homes, attended their

ceremonials. Not only did this  
agent act as a medicine man in  
actually dispensing the sweetened  
water, but he also served as medicine  
man in the Inner Circle and Tribal  
Councils, helping the chieftains to  
make plans for the administration  
of their tribal problems.

It was thus that the agent came  
to learn of an amazing condition  
on the reservation. It so happened that at the  
time of the first transition from squalid poverty  
to great riches and profligacy among the Osages,  
there were in the region many notorious criminals  
who were fugitives from justice. Lord had  
gone out, via the "grapevine," that the wild  
stretches of country, dotted with numerous can-  
yons, provided an ideal haven for criminals  
wanted by the authorities.

**AMONG** those who fled to the reservation  
were thirty-two criminals wanted by  
the police of various cities for bank  
train robberies. They formed the nucleus  
of a spectacular gang of murderers,  
robbers and pillagers almost without parallel  
in the nation's criminal history.

These outlaws looked with greedy, cov-  
etous eyes upon the new wealth of the Osages.  
But how to get their hands on it? They dared  
not strike out for it, for fear that the govern-  
ment might discover their presence on the reser-  
vation. But a leader came along to show them  
the way. Who he was—the master mind behind  
that long series of murders—was to be revealed  
in an unexpectedly dramatic way.

One special agent, posing as a Texas cowman  
quick on the trigger, became friendly with some  
of the outlaws. They met regularly in a clump  
of woods outside of Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Con-  
vinced that the agent was another "fugitive,"  
they reluctantly took him into their confidence—  
except for one thing: they didn't inform him of  
the identity of their leader.

But one night the agent was ordered by the  
gang to deliver a letter to William Hale. Hale,  
middle-aged, heavily built, affecting a military  
air, was known as the "King of the Osage." He  
had drifted into the territory years before from  
Texas, an uneducated cow puncher and cattle  
thief. But by his domineering personality he  
took over 45,000 acres of select grazing land.

That much the special agent knew, but he  
must know more about Hale. He carefully un-  
sealed the letter and read its contents. It was a  
letter from one "Blackie" Thompson, notorious  
bank robber confined in the Oklahoma State  
Penitentiary. Blackie wanted some money—"one  
I'll talk." Carefully resealing the letter, the  
agent delivered it to Hale.

"What are you hiding from," said Hale.

"New York—bank job," the agent lied.

"O. K.," said Hale. "You'll get plenty  
to do."



W.H.A. J.

# Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tennessee

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## Will Broadcast Mystery

Roger Kahn's Orchestra  
Also Will Play On  
Lucky Strike Hour.

### WMC Program

TONIGHT.

**THE OSAGE INDIAN MURDER** is a dramatization of a series of cold-blooded murders on an Oklahoma Indian reservation will be broadcast over NBC through WMC radio station of The Appeal Papers at 9 p.m. during the Lucky Strike Hour.

It required all the resourcefulness of a government agent to finally trace this series of baffling crimes to its perpetrator. The dramatization is based on records of the case which are now in the files of the U. S. Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

The musical portion of the program will be provided by Roger Wolfe Kahn and his orchestra, now headliners at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Walter O'Keefe will be master of ceremonies.

- 5:00—Lowenstein's Youth Club.
- 5:15—Wander-Astoria Ensemble, NBC.
- 5:30—Ralph Kirbery, Dream Singer, NBC.
- 5:45—Paradise Islanders, NBC.
- 6:00—Evening Appeal Sports Review.
- 6:15—Evening Sereaders, Lois Stover.
- 6:30—Special Musical Feature.
- 6:45—Memphis Novvity Trio.
- 7:00—National Advisory Council, NBC.
- 7:30—WMC Court of the Air.
- 8:00—Ed Bernie's Orchestra.
- 8:30—Ed Wynn, Texaco Pile Chief, NBC.
- 9:00—Lucky Strike Dance Hour, NBC.
- 10:00—"Amos 'n' Andy," NBC.
- 10:15—National Grand Opera, "Aida," NBC.
- 11:15—Frankie Masters' Orchestra, NBC.
- 11:30—Arthur Jarrett, tenor, NBC.
- 11:45—Don Bestor's Orchestra, NBC.
- 12:00—Weather Forecast—Sign Off.
- 12:05—Quotations Courtesy W. H. Payne, 10:01, 11:14 a.m.; 12 noon, 1 and 2:14 p.m.

### WNBR

- 5:00—Mimmy Brown, Pianist.
- 5:15—Indian Folk Tales.
- 5:30—Four-Ring Circus.
- 6:00—Business Plus Signs.
- 6:30—Radio Sports Page.
- 7:15—Fifteen Minutes of Moonshine.
- 7:30—Request Program.
- 8:30—Jack Frost's Magic Carpet.
- 9:00—Lora Nazor's Program.
- 10:00—The Night Editor.

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LAW IN THE OSAGE HILLS.

After six years and the expenditure of thousands of dollars, the Government has exposed and convicted William K. Hale, "King of the Osage Hills," and John Ramsey, his chief lieutenant in a dastardly murder ring which specialized in killing Osage Indians for their insurance money. Both got life sentences.

It must be remembered that the sovereign State of Oklahoma permitted the Osage outrages to go unpunished. Sheriffs investigated and did nothing. State Attorneys investigated and did nothing. The Attorney-General investigated and did nothing. It was only when the Government sent Department of Justice Agents into the Osage country that law became a thing of majesty instead of a butt of travesty.

The Post-Dispatch has consistently opposed the march of Federal empire, the usurpation by the Federal Government of rights and powers belonging to the states. The punishment of murderers is the duty of the state. But when local government fails, as it did in Oklahoma, there is no alternative but Federal investigation. The underlying cause of the growth of Federal power has been the apathy of its citizens, the corruptness of local authorities and the disregard into which state law has fallen because of them. The whole strength of local self-government is dependent upon the vigor and efficiency of the men in local offices.

When local laws are mocked, as they were by the Osage murder ring; when state officials fear to do their duty, as they appear to have done during the "reign of terror" in the Osage country, then the Government of the United States steps in. The Government scores again at the expense of democratic law enforcement in a State, and the men whose duty it was to keep their own house in order stand rebuked.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

# INDICTMENTS ARE EXPECTED IN OSAGE PLOT SOON

GUTHRIE, Okla., Jan. 12.—Indications were plentiful here today that action in the murder charges in connection with the alleged conspiracy to slay wealthy Osage Indians for their millions would be pushed to a swift conclusion.

From sources hitherto reliable, it was said that the Federal grand jury investigating the plots would return final indictments soon, then adjourn, and a new grand jury be summoned to meet next Tuesday to go into the political phases of charges that bribery and corruption had halted the original inquiry two years ago.

Prominent specimens here yesterday of Alvin MacDonald, former rough rider friend of Roosevelt, and for years one of the most noted United States marshals in the southwest, caused reports of this investigation to take form.

### Orders From Washington

MacDonald was made plain today that he refused permission to testify before the grand jury, even after warning humanity. In regard to reports that he was one of two named Federal officials

concerned in allegations of a \$10,000 bribe to halt the inquiry.

Today, it was further said that the orders to stop the original investigation came directly from the Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation in Washington.

Assistant Attorney General Edwin Brown refused this morning to comment on why MacDonald had not been allowed to testify or on MacDonald's statement that Brown had told him he was not under investigation.

Brown's attitude was taken by observers here to give color to the report that another grand jury would be called next Tuesday for the specific purpose of going into the political phases.

In this connection, it was said this morning that the case of John Ramsey, indicted on a Federal charge of murder in the killing of Henry Ryan, rich Osage, with Wm. Ham K. Hale, millionaire, rancher, political power, and "king of the Osage hills," would be hurried to trial.

### Confession Is Claimed

It was said flatly today, also, that Ramsey and Ernest Burkhardt had confessed to taking part in the series of murders which netted millions to the alleged killer gang. Burkhardt is indicted for murder on a state charge with Hale in connection with the killing of Bill and Reta Smith and their maid by dynamite. Reta Smith was the second daughter of Mollie Bigheart, three of whose daughters were slain. Burkhardt is a nephew of Hale and the husband of Mollie Que, the last daughter of Mollie Bigheart, who is mysteriously ill.

The bitterness with which the charges will be fought is indicated in the fact that Hale has retained as chief of counsel Prince Freeman, former state attorney general, and nationally noted for his fire of oratory in prosecuting Clara Smith, known for killing John Hart, former state attorney general.

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# BURKHART IS GUARDED AT OWN REQUEST

SECRET SERVICE MADE  
NIES FAIRFAX MAN'S  
IN CUSTODY

ASKED FOR PROTECTION

HEARING ON WRIT IS BE  
ING HELD

Oklahoma City, Feb. 2.—  
(AP)—District Judge J. Owen  
Babeock today denied a writ  
of habeas corpus directing  
federal officials to release  
Ernest Burkhart, a key  
figure in the government  
investigation of the slaying  
of wealthy Osage Indians.

Oklahoma City, Feb. 2.—  
(AP)—Ernest Burkhart, key  
witness in the government's  
investigation of an alleged  
conspiracy against the lives  
and property of wealthy  
Osage Indians, is under the  
protection of a federal secret  
service operative at his own  
request, it was testified here  
today.

The testimony was given by  
Tom White, secret service oper-  
ative, at a habeas corpus hearing  
in state district court, on a motion  
brought by purported attorneys  
for Burkhart, ordering federal  
officials to show cause why they  
should not produce Burkhart, who  
disappeared soon after his arrest  
from state murder charges.

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Denies He is in Custody  
White denied that Burkhart was in custody, and said he could produce a letter showing that Burkhart had requested the presence of a federal officer. That letter was not admitted to evidence this morning.

The attorneys, who also represent W. K. Hale, charged that the government was perpetrating a "diabolical scheme" upon Burkhart and Hale, and that they would prove it by evidence at an afternoon session if the court would permit.

Attorneys for Hale asserted that testimony given by White showed that Burkhart was in the custody of federal officers. Judge L. B. Babcock, presiding over the hearing, said the testimony showed the opposite and that Burkhart was not in the custody of anyone.

#### Is Nephew of Hale

Burkhart is a nephew of W. K. Hale, Osage ranchman, who was indicted with John Ramsey, a boy-farmer, for the murder of Henry Roan, wealthy Osage. The indictment was quashed several days ago by Federal Judge J. H. Cotteral on the ground that it was insufficient.

Burkhart was arrested by the state for murder in connection with the dynamiting of the W. L. Smith home at Fairfax, but the charge was dropped at the request of federal authorities. A rumor was current during the grand jury investigation at Guthrie that Burkhart had confessed his connection with the case. He disappeared soon after the state released him.

In addition to Lewis, seven other men connected with the investigation were summoned to appear in district court. They were: Edwin Brown, special assistant United States attorney general; John Wren, department of justice officer; T. B. White, operative of the federal bureau of investigation, Ed. Dabney, assistant state attorney general; Luther Bishop, operative of the state bureau of identification and investigation, and T. H. Taylor and C. E. Jones, Logan county jail.

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Wednesday, January 13

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

# Osage Murder Probed Halted With Only Two Indictments

## Grand Jury to Reconvene Feb. 12 if More Evidence of a Murder Ring Is Obtained

By Carl A. Snow

CUTRILL, Okla.—The Federal grand jury investigating the activities of the Osage Indian murder ring adjourned last night to reconvene Feb. 12, a tentative date.

With only two indictments known to have been returned against the men suspected in the deaths of 12 wealthy Indians, observers believe the jury will reconvene only when additional evidence has been obtained.

### Two Are Charged

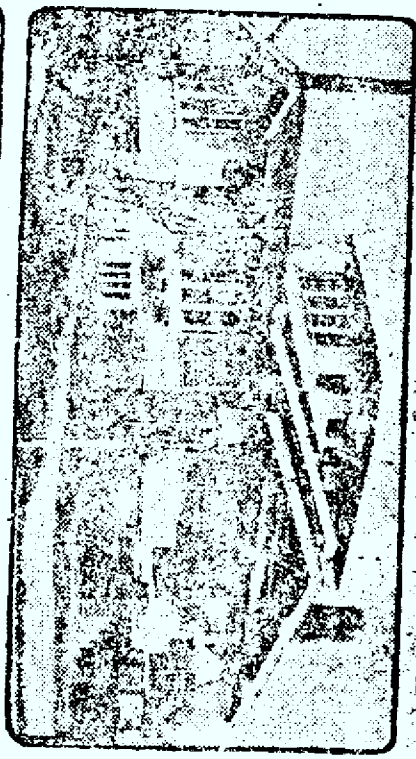
W. K. Hale, alleged instigator of the \$2,000,000 murder plot, and John Ramsey, a farmer indicted Saturday with Hale for the murder of Henry Roan, wealthy Osage, will be arraigned Saturday on charges of first degree murder.

Federal authorities are attempting to obtain custody of Hale, who has been held in the Guthrie jail in honor of the filing of state charges of murder against him and Edward Jankhardy, a nephew.

### Perjury Charges

Perjury charges were filed yesterday by U. S. J. A. W. C. ... against Fred Roan, of Pawnee, a nephew of Hale. ... a special indictment of the ...

## Called Leader of Osage Murder Ring



W. G. Hale, called the "king of the Osage hills," who was indicted in connection with the federal investigation of the alleged Oklahoma murder ring, Hale was charged with the murder of Henry Roan, an Indian, whose \$25,000 insurance policy was assigned to Hale, and with the death of W. P. Smith at Fairfax, who was killed, with his wealthy Indian wife and a white servant girl, when their home was blown to pieces. At the right is shown the Smith home before and after the explosion.

# X RED MEN RECALL X McBRIDE MURDER

Terrorized Osage Braves Slip Into Guthrie to Tell Federal Grand Jury How 'Murder Ring' Dispatched 17 in 3 Years—Mangled Body of Their Friend Was Found on Tracks Near Washington

By United Press

GUTHRIE, Okla.—The law of the paleface moved today to free the wealthy Osage red men from the grip of a vicious murder ring blamed for the deaths of 17 persons in three years.

Terrorized braves, marked by death at the hands of the murderous band, slipped into town to appear secretly before the federal grand jury as it began its inquiry.

## 20 Marked For Death

Government investigators who were sent into the territory last year heard a weird story of a gigantic plot that called for the deaths of 20 persons.

Their report was as secret as their probe. Always suspicious, Osages appeared before the investigators, reluctantly told their story and returned to their reservation, many going to secret hiding places.

## Prisoners Deny Guilt

Two white men have been arrested in connection with the mysterious deaths. They are W. K. Hale, wealthy cattle man, and his nephew, Ernest Burkhardt, husband of an Indian heiress.

Both are charged with the murder of W. E. Smith, another white man, who, with his Indian wife and housekeeper, were killed in the dynamiting in the Smith home at Fairfax in March, 1923. Both deny the accusations.

## Indians' Friend Slain

Terror that swept the reservation following this triple assassination resulted in a demand that the government act to save the Osages from further casualties.

Barney McBride, of Muskogee, to whom the tribesmen look their troubles, volunteered to intercede with the government and started for Washington.

He never reached there. His mangled body was found on railroad tracks in Maryland, near Washington. The murder ring taken another victim.

## Tablet to Be Unveiled

The memorial tablet to former Commissioner Harry K. Mc... will be unveiled at the... and was Commissioner from...

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# SLAYING PLOT TRIAL NEARS

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 13.—Harris lines were being drawn today preparatory to arraignment of indicted defendants in the Osage Indian "murders for millions" conspiracy charges.

The jurisdiction of the Federal courts will be the first attack of William K. Hale, millionaire "king of the Osage Hills." It was indicated, when his attorneys ask time to file motions at his arraignment yesterday.

Hale, his nephew Ernest Paulhart, John Ramsey, a farmer, and Bert Lawson, penitentiary inmate, will be arraigned on state charges of "murder Monday."

In the meantime, the Federal grand jury has been excused by Judge John J. Coffey for thirty days when it will be recalled and further phases of the alleged conspiracy come into.

The Government, prosecutors announced, expects to have six, and possibly ten, indictments before it this through.

Difficulty in the investigations was emphasized with the filing of perjury charges against several grand jury witnesses. One arrest that of Fred Rowe, of Payson, rancher and friend of Hale, was made. Rowe is out on \$10,000 bond today. Other arrests are expected.

The battle between the State of Oklahoma and the United States, which shall first try the man whose prisoner he became, and who will be decided.

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# OSAGE PROBERS ARE DISMISSED TILL FEBRUARY

HALE AND RAMSEY  
BE ARRAIGNED ON  
SATURDAY

RAMSEY PLEA AWAY  
PERJURY CHARGE MADE  
AGAINST PAWHUSKA

Guthrie, Jan. 13. (P)—  
little-city, territorial and  
time state capital, was  
suming its normal app-  
ance today after the tr-  
of a recess late yesterday  
the federal grand jury  
vestigating the killing  
nearly a score of persons  
the Osage country in  
and 1923. The inquiry will  
be resumed February 11.

Although many of the persons  
coming to Guthrie in connection  
with the investigation have al-  
ready departed and others are leav-  
ing today, much interest is at-  
tached to the next chapter in the  
Indian drama which will be em-  
ed here Saturday. W. K. L.,  
picturesque "king of the Osage  
hills," and John Ramsey, cowboy-  
farmer, will be brought before  
Federal Judge John H. Coffey  
to plead to the indictment of the  
murder of Henry Roan, an Osage.

Interest Centers on Ramsey.  
Hale has made it known that  
he will fight all charges growing  
out of the Osage killings to the  
end and there is therefore no  
doubt that he will plead "not guilty."  
However, Ramsey's answer  
will be eagerly awaited as rumors  
are current that he and Ed  
Burkhart, named by Bert Lamm  
as implicated in the explosion  
which caused the deaths of E. J.  
Smith, his wife and a servant,  
have made confessions to federal  
authorities.

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Hale and Burkhardt, his nephew, are also under arrest on state warrants issued at Pawhuska, charging them with murder. Aspects of a breach between the federal and state authorities over the custody of these and other men on charges growing out of the inquiry were met yesterday in a statement from Roy L. United States district judge that the two departments are working along fine. How the custody of the two was announced.

**Rowe Charged With Perjury**  
A new development in the investigation is that of perjury charges. A warrant was issued yesterday for Fred Rowe, Oklahoma cattleman and reputed friend of Hale on a charge of perjury and Lewis declared warrants for several other offenses before the grand jury would be issued.

Only two of the 17 mysterious deaths, those of Anna Brown and Henry Roan, both Osages, apparently considered by the grand jury during its deliberations.

### TRIAL TO BE HELD AT OKLAHOMA CITY

Oklahoma City, Jan. 13.—(C. K. W. K. Hale, wealthy Osage county ranchman and John Remy, farmer, may be tried in United States district court here in February for the murder of Henry Roan, Osage Indian, Roy Lewis, district United States attorney announced today.

Both men were indicted Saturday by a federal grand jury at Guthrie, called to investigate an alleged "murder ring" believed to have caused the deaths of nearly a score of rich Osage Indians and white persons.

It is believed that the question of the government's jurisdiction in murder cases will be threshed out at the trial, and that further activities of the jury, which recessed yesterday, will depend upon the outcome.







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# Osage Grand Jury Slow in Resuming Death Mill Probe

Guthrie, Jan. 11 (AP)—The federal grand jury that Saturday indicted W. K. Hale and John Ramsey on a charge of murdering Henry Roan, Osage Indian, today was slow in resuming its deliberations.

Shortly before noon, no witnesses had been called.

Roy Lewis, United States district attorney, announced that Hale and Ramsey would not be arraigned today, and although Hale's attorneys were in the city no attempt to arrange bond for him had been made at noon.

### "Pawnee Bill" on Scene.

An influx of prominent men in the frontier history of the state was noted today. Major Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie and his brother, Albert Lillie, were here from Pawnee. They have not been subpoenaed and Major Lillie said he came merely to pay his respects to federal authorities.

Frank Canton, former United States marshal and a frontier character around whom at least one novel has been built, also was here.

Alva McDonald, until recently United States marshal, who Saturday announced his intention of demanding a jury investigation of intimations that he had accepted a bribe in connection with the Osage cases, arrived at noon and reiterated his declaration that he would seek to be called before the grand jury for an investigation of the alleged bribe.

### Zack Mulhall Present.

Zack Mulhall, another frontier character and showman was in Guthrie today. Major Lillie, Canton and Mulhall are all intimate friends of Hale and expressed belief in his innocence.

Mrs. June Mayo of Tulsa, who was with Henry Grammer when he was killed in an automobile accident early in 1923, was again questioned at length yesterday by federal authorities.

It was the second time Mrs. Mayo had been quizzed, and the seeming importance attached to her story increases the belief that an effort is being made to uncover some hitherto unrevealed angle in the long story of alleged murders in the Osage country.

### Hale With Grammer.

Henry Grammer was known widely. His death occurred shortly before the home of W. E. Smith was blown up in Fairfax in March, 1923. His body was found beside the wreck of his expensive motor car. Mrs. Mayo had been with him, as had also Hale. It was said at the time that he had been killed in the wreck.

After a conference with Edwin K. Brown, assistant attorney general, McDonald said he would not appear before the jury.

Brown, McDonald said, told him that he was not the subject of investigation and that his appearance was unnecessary.

McDonald said that the reports were regarded by Brown as "malicious gossip."

### Rumors Said \$10,000 Split.

The rumors are to the effect that McDonald and another former official divided \$10,000 they received from a Pawhuska attorney at the time of the first investigation, McDonald said. He declared he had given federal investigators valuable assistance and that the other party mentioned in the bribe rumors had never been connected with the Osage case.

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