

picture of subject was positively identified by William Reed, City Detective, Los Angeles, as being Paul Smith, alias H.I. Ross, arrested here September 5th, 1923 by him, but was released at that time, as he was already out on bond awaiting trial. He advises that they have information from an under cover informant that this party, together with Albert Jacob Main and George Lawrence alias Stafford alias Sparrow, had been at the Southern Hotel here in Los Angeles, ⁱⁿ September and had planned to go East to New York, with certain letters they were supposed to have for a shake-down of some party there, and had tried to get another party here to go with them; that these parties had actually gone East and that one of them, Albert Main, had returned and made boast that he had secured \$50,000.00 which the three of them split three ways.

Telegram was sent on October 23rd, to Agent in Charge Eckhart, Cincinnati, Ohio, which reads as follows:

"John F. Eckhart,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Los Angeles, Cal..
October 23rd, 1923.

ALBERT S. HARRIS IS I ROSS ALIAS PAUL SMITH ARRESTED
HERE BY DETECTIVE REED SEPTEMBER FIVE CHARGE FORGERY
HELD TO HIGHER COURT AWAITING TRIAL STOP MAKE HIM
BELIEVE REED IS ON WAY TO IDENTIFY STOP OTHER PARTIES
WITH HIM AT DAYTON EITHER ALBERT JACOB MAIN OR GEORGE
LAWRENCE ALIAS THE SPARROW WHO FORFEITED THREE THOUSAND
BOND STOP JOB PLANNED HERE AT SOUTHERN HOTEL WILL FORWARD
PICTURES LAST TWO LATER WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS OTHER
DIRECTIONS ALSO.

BONE"

John L. Bushnell, Springfield, Ohio, and his attorney, J.M.

Cole, received the following two letters, copies of which were turned over to this agent:

"Mr. John L. Bushnell,
Springfield, Ohio.

Burbank, Calif.,
August 10th, 1923.

On July 14, 23, I read an article in the Evening Herald saying you were a victim of the badger game. I too was a victim of the same game. I am personally acquainted with the couple mentioned that fleeced you, so I would like to ask you if the other girl in the case calls herself Miss Patricia or (Pat) Palmer. If this is the girl, I can and will mention at least seven others who are part of this gang who have fleeced you, myself and God only knows how many others.

Kindly let me know if this is the party or not. If you do not know her by this name, try and describe her so I can find out if it is the same girl or not.

Kindly keep this confidential. Awaiting your reply, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Geo. Lasher
Burbank Electric Shop,
204 E. San Fernando Blvd.,

Mr. J.M. Cole,
Springfield, Ohio.

Burbank, Calif.
August 28th, 1923.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of August 19, 23, received, also the photos. This couple known to me as Don and Rose Osborn are not actually the ones that fleeced me but are directly the cause of it all. They are two out of a gang of eleven who do nothing but look for suckers. It is a long story how they work it but the girl in my case has until Aug. 4, 23, to return the money to me or I will put her where Don and Rose are. You can expect a long letter soon after Aug. 4, 23 explaining the way the gang works and all the names of those connected with the gang.

When I heard about this couple getting in trouble I at once saw their game and decided to do a little investigation for myself and the results were very good for the girl in my case has a record a mile long which you will see when you receive my next letter.

The girl's name in my case is Margaret Gibson, alias Patricia (Pat) Palmer whose address I am in possession of.

When I was threatened by several members of this gang, I sure was scared but when I saw their gang, I located this girl's address in San Francisco and immediately left here for there, but found she had left three weeks ago and after several weeks I again located her and had her come to my place of business and informed her she was to return the one thousand dollars she swindled me out of and she begged me not to let her husband know anything about it. (She had a man along who claimed he was her husband, but I know different)

She begged me for time so she could get it together so I gave her until the 4th of September, 1923.

I intend to expose the gang anyway, but I am trying to get my money back first, I am sure I know the other two men in your case and could be instrumental in their arrest but I must have some one from your city who could recognize them when I brought them face to face. If there is anything I can do, say so for I would be glad to cooperate in the apprehension of this gang.

Awaiting your reply, I am Yours truly,

Geo. W. Lasher, Prop.,
Burbank Electric Shop."

- - -

Agents interviewed George W. Lasher, operating the Burbank Electric Shop, 204 E. San Fernando Blvd., Burbank, Calif., and he gave the following information as to his relations with Margaret Gibson, alias Patricia "Pat" Palmer. Lasher advised that he had met DON OSBORN through Leonard Clapham, who lives across the street from DON OSBORN and that DON OSBORN had asked him to come to his place, 2575 Beachwood Drive, to do some electrical work for him. Shortly before this Lasher had sold a piece of property in Hollywood, which he owned and evidently these parties believed him to be in possession of some money. Lasher called to do the work at 2575 Beachwood Drive, and as he finished same in a very short time, he left, and later DON OSBORN

again called him to do some work at his place, and at this time he was left at the house there with Patricia Palmer and they became more or less friendly and this friendship between them continued, and about January, 1923, he together with Patricia Palmer went to Tia Juana on a party, she driving him down there in her car, and at a saloon there, operated by Jim Dallas, they had considerable to drink, and Patricia Palmer put up the proposition to him that they would each make out a check for \$1000.00, which checks were turned over to her, Lasher making out his personal check for \$1000.00, and shortly thereafter an attempt was made to dope him, which he noticed at the time he drank the stuff, and he immediately went outside and was able to throw off the effects of whatever they had given him, but still was in a very dazed condition. Sensing what was being tried upon him, he immediately wired and called across the border to stop payment on his check. However Patricia Palmer immediately sent Jim Dallas across the border in an effort to cash this check. On the following day, he arranged to stop payment on the check and when same was presented, the bank would not pay it, and later a contractor in Los Angeles called with the check and tried to collect it from him and Lasher then made this fellow produce the man who was holding the check, and he proved to be Blacky Thompson, now supposed to be employed at the Tom Mix ranch, and this latter party was called in and finally the check was returned to Lasher. Lasher continued to see Patricia Palmer, and had planned on giving up his wife and two children, to be with her. The latter part of January, 1923, Patricia Palmer advised Lasher that her mother was very angry because he had taken her to Tia Juana, and she indirectly suggested to him that

possibly if something were given to the mother she might not feel so bad towards him; that there was a possibility that Lasher would be prosecuted for Violation of the Mann Act. About this time, in a conversation between Lasher and DON OSBORN, DON OSBORN suggested to him that evidently Mrs. Palmer was going to have him prosecuted for Violation of the Mann Act, and he thought it would be well for him to fix up the matter with the mother, if he could do so. Patricia Palmer kept after him in this matter, and finally he gave her a check for \$75.00, dated February 4th, drawn on his account, George Lasher, through the Equitable Branch, Security Trust and Savings Bank, First Street at Spring, Los Angeles, which check was later cashed and endorsed by her, which check was turned over to agents. Shortly thereafter he also paid her \$800.00 in cash and another payment of about \$280.00 in cash out ^{of} money which he had on hand from the sale of his house. Lasher's wife had been aware of his relations with Patricia Palmer, and had called on Mrs. Palmer in regard to the matter, and on one occasion the wife was there at the Palmer residence when he, Lasher, drove up in his car. The mother of Patricia Palmer then cursed him and told him she was going to have him prosecuted for Violation of the Mann Act. On this occasion the Mother advised the wife to institute a prosecution in this matter, and this statement was verified by Mrs. George W. Lasher, who was present at the interview by agents. Lasher advised that after he had paid this money he had learned that Patricia Palmer had been arrested on some statutory charges and that she had also been arrested in connection with a diamond robbery, and when he saw that he had been made a fool of in the matter, he went to her and demanded his money back. At first she agreed to pay the money back to him and asked him

not to tell her husband, but Lasher advised he believes this is only some party with whom she is at present living, and not her husband. Although she agreed to return his money to him, to date she has not done so.

On October 24th, Agents conferred with U.S. Attorney Burke and the facts of the DON OSBORN case were gone over briefly with him and the facts as to Patricia Palmer securing the above money from Geo. Lasher were submitted to him, in which she had secured this money under a threat of prosecution for violation of the Mann White Slave Traffic Act, based upon a charge that he had transported her, Patricia Palmer, from Los Angeles to Tia Juana. Mr. Burke said it would be agreeable to him to have warrant issued for the arrest of Patricia Palmer. Affidavit has been drawn, but Patricia Palmer will not be taken into custody until after certain other investigations have been made as to J.A. RYAN and BLACKY MADSON, who are supposed to be close to Los Angeles now, and it is believed that if she were arrested right at this time these other two parties might leave. * * *

Agents are making arrangements, together with Detectives Reed and Shafer and J. Biemer, Investigator, County District Attorney's Office, whereby it is believed an Informant will turn up MADSON and RYAN.

On October 24th, there was forwarded to Agent in Charge, Eckhart, Cincinnati, Ohio, a picture of Albert Main, alias Mayne, alias Adolph Lyons, whose description is as follows:

Age: 29
Height: 5 ft. 6 in.
Weight: 160 lbs.
Eyes: Blue

up to March 10th, 1923, when she deposited \$585.00, this evidently being check obtained from DON OSBORN, for equity in property at 257b Beechwood Drive, assigned to OSBORN March 9th, 1923. Her account with this bank closed June 15th, 1923.

George W. Lasher formerly had an account in this bank, but his balance has never been sufficient to meet a check of \$1000.00. The members of the bank here are unable to recall the details of the \$1000.00 check transaction, but same could not have been cashed, for reason of insufficient funds.

In further interview of George W. Lasher, Burbank, Cal., he advised that the name of the contractor previously mentioned is O.E. Lepper, office Johnson Building, home 3611 W. 4th St., Los Angeles, and that this is the party who appeared at the place of M.H. McCabe Electric Company, 6278 Hollywood Blvd., together with another party and tried to secure the cashing of the \$1000.00 check. He advises they represented this check to be a gambling debt, and when he, Lasher, returned he learned of their visit and he called upon O.E. Lepper and demanded the return of the check. Lepper advised that the check was then held by Jim Dallas, who was then stopping at his, (O.E. Lepper's) home. When he saw Jim Dallas, he demanded the return of the check, and Dallas advised him that he had been sent across the border in an effort to cash this check. He advised PATRICIA PALMER at first told a story to the effect that the check had been taken away from her at the point of a gun and that she was forced to endorse same, but later would not stand by this story. BLACKY THOMPSON, previously mentioned, is now going by the name of ROLLY HOLLINS, and is now out on location, and this is the party who advised him of PATRICIA

PALMER's previous record, and that it was Jim Dallas who had possession of the check when he secured the return of same. Lasher advised that he knew that he did not have sufficient money in the bank to meet the check which he had given.

Agents interviewed Orlando E. Lepper, 3611 W. 4th St. Los Angeles, who advises that he is a friend of Jim Dallas, a Greek, living at 4143 Cleveland Ave., San Diego, and that he and Dallas are married to two women that are cousins. He advised that about the last part of January Dallas came to Los Angeles with a check for \$1000.00, and, as he remembers, had the address of the McCabe Electric Company, and that he, together with Dallas went in to see Mr. McCabe as to the cashing of the check which Dallas had. He advised Lasher was supposed to be employed at this place and evidently had represented himself as being sick. Dallas then told McCabe he had a check which Lasher had given him at Tia Juana, and McCabe took Lepper's address, and on the following day Lasher appeared at his office and demanded the check when he, Lepper, referred Lasher to Dallas, who was then at the home of O.E. Lepper, and he understands Lasher demanded, and obtained the return of the check from Dallas. He advises that Dallas told him he had cashed this check for Lasher in his saloon in Tia Juana, and that he had no connection with the matter, other than going with Dallas to the bank with the check, and later to the place of the McCabe Electric Company.

Agents, together with R.H. Colvin, interviewed James K. Dallas, alias Jim Dallas, living at 4143 Cleveland Ave., San Diego, and operating a saloon known as the Vernon Club at Tia Juana. His description is as