

~~DON OSBORN ET AL - BLACKMAIL.~~

~~and myself have been placed in most embarrassing circumstances, and if you can convey word to Don Osborn, you might tell him that it will not be well for him or Rose Putnam to show their faces in this neighborhood or in Los Angeles Again."~~

August 2, 1923, Agent with Detective Trainor, called at 1731 South Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, and found that GEORGE F. WEH had returned from his vacation. He was taken to the Bureau office and questioned by Agent, who was of the opinion that he would throw a good deal of light on this case. However, Mr. Weh advised Agent that he had been running around with Madson's wife for sometime unknown to Madson and that he was never closely associated with Madson and was unaware what his business was. He told Agent to consult Police Records at San Diego, California, as information could be secured there regarding MAY RYAN, supposed wife of Madson.

Agent questioned Mr. Weh in regard to the letter mailed to J. R. BUSHNELL, from Los Angeles on December 20, 1922, signed EARL FRANK DUSTIN, General Delivery, Los Angeles. Weh denied that he ever wrote any such letter or that he was aware of the fact that Osborn and Rose Putnam were blackmailers.

A sample of Weh's handwriting is being attached to copy of this report to the Cincinnati office, and it is requested that Weh's writing be compared with the signature of Earl Frank Dustin.

Agent has had a cover placed on the mail of EARL FRANK DUSTIN at General Delivery, but up to this date no such person has called for mail.

There is a question in Agent's mind as to whether or not WEH is

DOY OSBORN ET AL - BLACKMAIL.

the writer of this letter, and should his handwriting be found to compare with that of the letter in question, he will be invited to Bureau office and requested to tell more of his past activities and association with Osborn.

Following is WSH's statement:

"My name is GEORGE F. WSH, residing at 1731 South Normandie Avenue. I am 53 years of age. I met Don Osborn at Sultan Hammond Baths, 6th and Hill Streets, about two years ago, since which time I have been more or less friendly with him. I went to his house in South Pasadena when he was living there, and also at his house at 2575 Beachwood Drive, Hollywood, where he had occasional drinking parties. There I met Rose Putnam, a niece of his.

"I met Blacky Madison about 9 months ago. I have been acquainted with his wife about 11 years. I met her at San Diego and she was known as May Ryan, a notorious prostitute. She is well known there now, where she has done six months. It is doubtful whether she is married to Blacky Madison.

"I never heard of Jack A. Ryan, and know very little of Blacky Madison, nothing about his business or any of his associates.

"Don Osborn and Rose Putnam lived at Beachwood Drive and my impression was that they carried on a rather fast life.

"The last time I saw May Ryan was July 19th, at 603 East Washington Street. She said her husband had gone East on business, and that I might use his Nash car while he was away, and while he was away I took her out several times.

"I was unaware of anything wrong going on; all I know is what I have seen in the newspaper. I always thought them to be all right and considered her a fine little lady, with the exception that sometimes she drank a little too much. I believe that all of his friends were unaware that he was a blackmailer.

"I received two letters from Don Osborn in which he said he wanted to sell his house on Beachwood Drive for \$4500, and asked me to look in his desk on the sleeping porch and get the contract and pay \$30. He stated in one letter he had placed the matter in the hands of a real estate man, asking him to sell the house for \$6000. I did not do anything about the matter as after reading the papers I felt that I did not care to get mixed up in his affairs."

Jan. 1923, which it will be noted is the day after his arrest at Dayton, Ohio, and upon subject failing to appear, his bond of \$3000.00 was forfeited and bench warrant issued, and his bond is now set at \$20,000. The charge against subject here is that he forged the name of Bert Ross for \$565.00; complaining witness Howard C. Price & Co.; parties defrauded Citizens National Bank, 3rd and Broadway, Los Angeles. The American Surety & Bonding Company, who evidently were indemnified, were bondsmen for subject here. It is believed subject, at a favorable opportunity, will arrange bond at Cincinnati, and his bond there should be ^{made} named as high as possible, and if he should make bond there, he should not be released, but held for Los Angeles, who will send for him.

On October 25th, agents interviewed George Frank Weh, 1731 So. Normandie Ave., Los Angeles, who insists he has never been arrested. Weh explained the incident at the Cadillac Hotel previously mentioned in reports, as follows: At some time in the winter of 1922, about the first part, he, together with Jim Bryson, now dead, but who at that time was living at the home of DON OSBORN's mother, 525 Hermosa Ave., So. Pasadena, DON OSBORN and ROSE PUTNAM were at this place and we were all having a little party and later came down town for supper, and he and DON OSBORN then went to their homes, but he does not know where Rose and Jim Bryson went to. On the following day Bryson called him on the 'phone and OSBORN and Weh were out to locate Rose and Jim Bryson. They were finally located in a room at the Cadillac Hotel, together with another woman, whose name he does not recall, and DON OSBORN was very angry at finding them there in a room together, and ordered both Rose and Jim Bryson to leave his home and get their clothing out of same. J. Bryson

had cashed a few checks without any money to meet same, and on the following day DON OSBORN, together with George Weh, went to Police headquarters and caused the arrest of Jim Bryson on a \$10.00 check which he had cashed at the Yule Cafe, and Jim Bryson was arrested, but later discharged, and he, George Weh, immediately got the \$10.00 check. Weh advised that he, together with Patricia Palmer, ROSE PUTNAM and DON OSBORN made several trips out to the desert, and that on one particular occasion all four were at the Fred Harvey Hotel, Barstow, Calif., but that he and DON OSBORN had one room and ROSE and Patricia kept another, and he denies any improper relations between any of the party, insofar as he knows. At this time, ROSE and DON were supposed to be trying to buy a ranch. A comparison of the writing of George Weh with that of party who wrote the letters to Bushnell under the name of Earl Frank Dustin indicates that he is not the party. George Weh states that he absolutely had nothing to do with the purchase of the property at 2575 Beechwood Drive, and believes that probably the reason that Dustin represented he, Weh, as being a part owner, was to allay suspicion, due to the fact that he was living alone, together with ROSE PUTNAM. There was mailed to George Weh, 2308 Beechwood Drive, Hollywood, Cal., c/o Leo Maloney, a letter, mailed Oct. 1, 1923, Pasadena, Cal., in which was inclosed printed memorandum as follows:

"George:

Beat it 'till after Bushnell trial - will go hard with you if you are arrested again."

This was evidently sent by R.G. MADSON, as per opinion of George Weh. However, Weh denies he has seen MADSON since he returned from the East.

Agent interviewed Fred Moore, husband of Jackie Moore, the latter party being a woman with whom ROSE lived at one time while working at the Hamburger store, and who advised that from August, 1922 to July, 1923 he was engaged in a vaudeville act, known as "Fred Moore and Leo Kendall"

which was booked through Sam Kahl, Chief Booking Agent for the Orpheum Circuit, Chicago, Ill., and that he was closing his act at the Palace Theatre, Cincinnati, Ohio, in July, 1923, at the time DON OSBORN and ROSE PUTNAM were arrested at Springfield, Ohio. Samples of this party's handwriting show some similarity to the handwriting of the party who wrote the letters under the name of Darl Frank Dustin, but this party absolutely denies that he ever wrote any letters of any kind to Bushnell. While it is very probably that he is the party who wrote the letters, still we were unable to secure any admissions from him to this effect.

Jay R. Overstreet

Agents interviewed J.R. Overstreet, Sheridan Arms Apts., 1355 Orange St., a close friend of ROSE PUTNAM and DON OSBORN and also Patricia Palmer. He advised he met Patricia Palmer through his wife, and that he became very friendly with her and took her out on a number of parties shortly after he had handled the sale of a lot for her, and that he became acquainted with DON OSBORN through the fact that he had handled the leasing of 2575 Beechwood Drive from Patricia Palmer to DON OSBORN, this lease being for one year, at \$30.00 per month, and that later DON OSBORN had bought the equity of Patricia Palmer in this place. He advised that he attended various parties at the place of DON OSBORN, together with Patricia Palmer; that he knows of one time when OSBORN was working in some production here, but he does not know just how long he worked. He advised that OSBORN spoke of going East the latter part of 1922 to arrange for a release of a picture, and when he returned he evidently had money, as he bought a second hand automobile, also a fur coat and other clothing for ROSE PUTNAM. He advised they often had

cheap liquor at the place of DON OSBORN and that the expenses of these parties were paid by DON OSBORN. At the time OSBORN was arrested in July, 1923, he advised that OSBORN, before this trip, spoke of the fact that he was going East to arrange for the release of some pictures, and that he never suspected him of being involved in such matters as the blackmailing of Mr. Bushnell. A comparison of this party's hand writing indicates that he is not the party who wrote the letters under the name of Earl Frank Dustin.

CONTINUED.

atty *Ralph W. Colson*
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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 advised 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 advised 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.E. 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

follows:

Nationality: Greek
Height: 6 ft.
Age: 33
Weight: About 170 lbs.
Hair: Black
Eyes: Blue
Complexion: Dark
Build: Slight

This party is not naturalized; arrived at New York City July, 1906 from Patras, Greece, coming from there to Los Angeles, and has since been in the State of California. The following signed statement was obtained from DeLos:

San Diego, Cal.,
November 1st, 1923.

"Statement of James K. DeLos, (Jim Dallas) 4143 Cleveland Ave., San Diego, California, made to E.J. Connelley and R.R. Colvin, Special Agents, Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

About January 29th, 1923, George W. Lasher, and PATRICIA PALMER came to my place at Tia Juana and were drinking and having a good time. Evidently one of my entertainers, one Edw. Rucker, of Tia Juana, knew George W. Lasher.

Late on this night near to twelve o'clock, Edw. Rucker came to me with the check of Lasher made out to PATRICIA PALMER for one thousand dollars and wanted to get same cashed for her. They, that is, PATRICIA PALMER and George W. Lasher, represented themselves to be movie actors from Hollywood. I would not cash same but finally agreed to give them two hundred dollars on the check, until I could find out if same was good. I advanced two hundred on the check, which evidently, Edw. Rucker gave this money to PATRICIA PALMER. She was supposed to be down to Tia Juana for several days and I thought I could take same to Los Angeles and get it cashed, so as to make sure the check was good, charging them for expenses. At the time the check was being cashed, George W.

Lasher was evidently out in the toilet.

I went to Los Angeles and took the check to the Security Trust & Savings Bank, Hollywood, and check was not good for reason of insufficient funds.

I, together with O.E. Lepper, then went to the McCabe Electric Company and made inquiry as to George Lasher, who was supposed to be working there. I believe the bank advised me where he was working. We finally advised McCabe as to why we were making inquiry.

Edw. Rucker did all the talking on the check, advising me this woman, PATRICIA PALMER would pay all my expenses of going up to Los Angeles to get the check cashed.

About the first of February, George W. Lasher came to the place of O.E. Lepper, where I was staying with my wife in Los Angeles and came in with a gun and said he was a deputy Sheriff and demanded the check. He accused me or some one of having taken the check from this girl and making her endorse same. After making Lasher lay his gun aside he asked me to walk down the street to his auto where PATRICIA PALMER was in the auto.

Lasher asked PATRICIA PALMER if I was the party who had forced her to sign the check, and she said she did not know me. Lasher then asked her if any one had forced her, and she would not answer. Then I asked her if any one asked her to sign the check and she said no.

I understand PATRICIA PALMER made some remarks to people at Tia Juana that Lasher would have to pay the check, as he was a married man, and she was not stepping out for nothing, but I did not hear her say this.

After some talking with Lasher, I turned the check over to him, taking his receipt for same, as I expected to get my two hundred from my entertainer who had oked the check. George W. Lasher said he would see that I got the two hundred, but to date, I have not received the two hundred I advanced.

The only endorsements on the check was that of PATRICIA PALMER.