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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CINCINNATI, OHIO.

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT: LOS ANGELES, CAL.	DATE WHEN MADE: 10/25/23	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 10/18-25/23	REPORT MADE BY: E.J. CONNELLY
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE: DON OSBORN, alias H.L. PUTNAM ROSE PUTNAM R.G. alias G.W. alias BLACKY MADSON J.A. alias JACK RYAN, alias GRAHAM	: In custody, Cincinnati. : Whereabouts: Unknown	VIO. SEC. 32 C.C. Impersonation Govt. Officer; VIO. SEC. 37 C.C. Conspiracy Violate Sec. 32; VIO. SEC. 145 Extortion.
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PLACES DEVELOPED:  
At Cincinnati, Ohio.  
At Los Angeles, Cal.:  
Burbank, Cal.,  
Pasadena, Cal.

Attention: Mr. Hoover #2.  
Los Angeles File   
Cincinnati File 8195

47-

1293

With reference to report of Agent Meehan, dated October 16th Los Angeles, Calif., and various reports of this agent entitled as above.

At Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 18th, 1923, indictment returned against DON OSBORN, ROSE PUTNAM, BLACKY MADSON and J.A. RYAN

As requested by Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mau, Cincinnati, Ohio, investigation was made at Los Angeles, to determine information through the former associates of DON OSBORN and ROSE PUTNAM.

Agent, together with Agent Meehan, at Los Angeles and vicinity, developed the following information in regard to ROSE PUTNAM, DON OSBORN and ALBERT S. HARRIS, now held at Cincinnati, who were arrested on October 8th in connection with the second shake-down of John L. Bushnell.

Agents, on October 23rd, interviewed Sarah Jane Lanahan, 2575 Beechwood Drive, Hollywood, who is employed at the Hamburger Store.

Miss Lanahan is now taking care of the place of DON OSBORN here and making her home at such place, and she advised

that there are two beds at the place here,

one being a cot on the porch and a couch

REFERENCE

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO

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San Francisco 1; Los Angeles 2.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

47-1293-19 NOV 6 1923  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
NOV 1 1923  
DIVISION

Copying to Mr. Albin

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in the sitting room she advised that ROSE PUTNAM told her that DON OSBORN was going East about November or December, 1922, to sell a picture and that she knows that DON was away at this time and from conversation later when he returned they had said he obtained \$50,000.00 for his picture. After DON OSBORN's return, ROSE PUTNAM bought some clothes, some of which were purchased at the Hamburger Store. Miss Lanahan denies that she ever saw any of the money in the possession of either ROSE or DON. She advised that Fred and Jackie Moore were close friends of ROSE and DON and that she understood that they were in the show business and had shortly returned to Los Angeles and are now located at the Palm Crest Apartments.

Agents interviewed Mrs. Katherine Guilbeau, living at the Briggs, Fourth & Hope Sts., who is employed as a sales girl at the Hamburger Store in the Women's Ready to Wear Department, who knew ROSE PUTNAM from having formerly worked at the Hamburger Store, and she advised that about Christmas time, 1922, ROSE PUTNAM came into the store and seemed to be intoxicated and had purchased a velvet dress for \$85.00, which she paid for in cash, and ROSE PUTNAM in opening her purse which was filled with money, due to her condition, had dropped same on the floor, and Mrs. Guilbeau picked some up for her. Among the bills she noticed in the purse there were two \$100.00 bills, and she seemed to have a considerable amount of money in her purse. Later, the same day, ROSE PUTNAM returned, and showed her another dress which she had purchased, a black velvet, for which she said she had paid \$55.00.

Agents endeavored to have identified Albert S. Harris, arrested at Cincinnati, on October 8th, and after interviewing various parties,

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, <sup>in</sup> 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.

*Seq?  
yes  
Sept*

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.

*J*

When I was threatened by several members of this gang, I sure was scared but when I saw their game, 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."

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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 <sup>of</sup> 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 the 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 Mia 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



Hair: Red  
Los Angeles No. 35189  
Cleveland Identification Bureau No. 11593  
St. Paul Identification Bureau No. 12591.  
He is now out on \$3000. bond at Los Angeles.

Picture was also forwarded of George Lawrence, alias Stafford, alias Sparrow, whose description is as follows:

Age: 36, in 1923  
Height: 5 ft. 9-5/8 In.  
Weight: 150 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Complexion: Fair  
Hair: Black

He was arrested on November 25th, 1921, by Los Angeles officers Kerby & Hickock, charged with pick pocket; arrested April 19, 1923, charged with grand larceny and high way robbery, which latter charge he has forfeited a bond of \$3000.00, and is now wanted at Los Angeles.

Picture also was forwarded of Herbert I. Ross, alias Paul Smith, alias Albert S. Harris, being Los Angeles County No. 21655, taken about 1921. A later picture of Ross is to be obtained, being Los Angeles No. 21682. His description is as follows:

Age: 36  
Height: 6 ft. 3/4 in.  
Weight: 151 lbs.  
Hair: Chestnut  
Eyes: Brown  
Complexion: Medium dark

He was arrested on September 8th, 1923, by Detective Reed as suspect and released as subject was out on bond awaiting trial. Bertillon picture of subject taken at Dayton, Ohio, on October 8th, 1923, has been compared with pictures taken of subject here at Los Angeles in 1921 and 1923 and identification positively established. Herbert I. Ross had been released on \$3000.00 bond and his case set for October

9th, 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 <sup>made</sup> ~~made~~ 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 ~~bag~~ <sup>bag</sup>. 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 Hamberger 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., 1358 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.

*acty* *Ralph W. Colvin*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE