

Memorandum for Special Agent in Charge E. J. Connelley covering activities of Special Agent J. C. White during the period January 16, 17, 18, and 19, 1935.

At one A.M. on January sixteenth, Agent left Jacksonville, accompanied by the other Agents assigned to this case and arrived at about four miles north of Ocala, where he was met by Special Agent in Charge Connelley and plans were laid to raid the place of Carson Bradford on Lake Weir, which was occupied by one J. C. Blackburn and a Mrs. Blackburn, supposed to be the mother of the former.

All Agents got into position around the Carson Bradford house at about six A.M. on January sixteenth. This Agent was in a position northwest of the house, near Special Agent in Charge E. J. Connelley, and Special Agents R. L. Jones, A. A. Muzzey, John L. Madala and T. M. McDade. About seven A.M. Special Agent in Charge Connelley called upon the occupants of this house to come out and surrender and no one would be injured; that the house was surrounded by Agents of the United States Department of Justice. No response was heard from the house and this Agent then called upon the occupants to come out and surrender, informing that the house was surrounded by Special Agents of the United States Department of Justice, and still no response was heard from the house.

Special Agent in Charge Connelley then instructed Agents Muzzey and McDade to fire tear gas projectiles into the house. Two or three projectiles were fired against the house, but they failed to go into the house, and about that time someone from the upper southwest window of the house began firing what seemed to be a Thompson submachine gun, the bullets kicking up the sand directly in front of Special Agent in Charge Connelley, who was lying in a prone position near an old outhouse. Just prior to this burst of shots coming from the house, Agent thought he heard a woman say, "What are you going to do?", as if she were talking to someone else in the house. This Agent then began firing at this window. A few minutes later this fire was directed towards Agent, who was behind an oak tree, near the outhouse, about twenty-five steps from the door to the front of the house; then some shots came from somewhere downstairs on the west side of the house, striking the outhouse, which was to Agent's left rear. Agent then concentrated his shots on the front door and windows, also on the upstairs and downstairs windows on the north side. The firing continued from the house, both from the north upstairs windows and the windows from the front of the house, which was to the west. Later, Agent heard shots which seemed to be fired from the inside at the rear of the house. These shots were evidently directed against

Initial shots from the house & White returns fire.

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the Agents who were in the rear and to the east of the house. Later, shots again came from the upstairs rooms to the front and the north side of the house. All Agents on this side of the house then began shooting at these windows and doors. There was then a lull in the shooting and an attempt was again made to fire other tear gas projectiles into the house from the north side, which was unsuccessful.

Being out of tear gas projectiles, Special Agent in Charge Connelley instructed one of the Agents to go and get other tear gas projectiles. Special Agent T. J. McLaughlin came to Agent, who was still in his position on the northwest side of the house, and wanted to be covered while he, McLaughlin, fired tear gas into the house from the north side. Agent then got into position and fired at one of the windows on the north side of the house, both upstairs and downstairs, covering Agent McLaughlin while he fired the tear gas into the house on that side. Agent McLaughlin succeeded in getting three tear gas projectiles into the house. During this time, shots came from the inside of the house towards Agents.

Agent then went to the large outhouse, which was to the northwest of the main house, and there found in one of the rooms a negro by the name of Willie Woodbury and his wife, Annie Bell Woodbury, who were occupying one of the rooms in this house on the northeast side, and were directly in the rear of Agent when he had his position behind the oak tree.

Willie Woodbury advised Agent that he and his wife were employed by J. C. Blackburn and his mother, Mrs. Blackburn, to cook and clean up the Bradford home. Willie stated that there were only a man, whom he knew as J. C. Blackburn, and a woman, named Mrs. Blackburn, staying in the house at the time, but that there was another person who had been there up until the past Sunday morning, known to Woodbury as George Summers; that this George Summers had left there Sunday morning at about nine AM, driving a new model Ford V-8 sedan; that he was accompanied by a woman known to him, Woodbury, as Wynona. Willie Woodbury picked out a photograph of Harry Campbell as being the man that he knew as George Summers.

Agent got Willie Woodbury and his wife, Annie Bell, out of the outhouse in order that if there were any more firing they would not get hurt.

Special Agent in Charge Connelley then got out in front of the house and asked Willie Woodbury if he would try the front and side doors of the house, which he did and he came back and stated that they were both latched from the inside. Later, the house was entered from the front by Special Agent in Charge Connelley, E. L. Jones, John L. Madala, and other Agents. Agent stood in front of the house covering these Agents while they were entering in case any shots would be fired from the house at the Agents. Special Agent in Charge Connelley then advised Agent that he had found Fred Barker and Kate Barker, both dead up in the northwest room.

Agent then went into the house and upstairs to the northwest room, and there saw Fred Barker and Kate Barker lying dead near the door leading out into the hall. Fred Barker was lying on his face. Kate Barker was lying on her left side, with her feet drawn up, and bare-footed. Agent then went through to the southwest room and there saw Kate Barker's house slippers laying on the floor underneath the southwest window. This room appeared to have been occupied by Kate Barker, and on the table near this window, Agent saw a Thompson machine gun drum which appeared to be fully loaded. Upon returning from this room into the hall, Agent noticed a trail of blood leading from this room into the room where Kate Barker was found dead.

Kate Barker's slippers & loaded drum

Coroner Futch was immediately notified and came there, selecting a jury, viewing the bodies and rooms in the house, and turned Fred Barker's body over and underneath his body was found a 45 blue steel automatic Colts pistol, which had been jammed, and on examining this pistol it is noted that a bullet had struck the butt end of it, splitting the handle and cutting a groove in the steel. Fred Barker's body was then searched for a money belt, keys, etc., and the undertaker took out of his righthand pants pocket two Ten Dollar bills and three One Dollar Bills. Agent John L. Madala then unbuckled Barker's belt, taking it off and in the zipper pocket of this belt four One Thousand Dollar bills were found, by Agents E. L. Jones and Madala. It was noticed that Fred Barker was dressed in shirt sleeves, no hat, no coat, with a pair of dark trousers and black, low shoes. There were ten bullet holes in his left shoulder and breast; also it was noticed that there were two or three bullet wounds in his head.

Kate Barker's body was not examined there for the bullet wounds. The undertaker then took the bodies out to his establishment in Ocala.

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Agent then interviewed Willie Woodbury who identified the photograph of Harry Campbell as the man whom he knew as George Summers, and who had been staying with Fred and Kate Barker for the past two weeks. Woodbury stated that Campbell was driving a Ford V-8 sedan, license number unknown. He was unable to positively identify any of the other photographs of this gang, with the exception of Alvin Karpis, whom he thought he had seen at Fred Barker's place during the two months that they had been living in Oklawaha.

Woodbury further stated that there was a man, named Tom Sexton, and his wife, who had three children, two boys and a girl, who lived in the same outhouse that he, Woodbury, was living in at the time that the Barkers came there and that the Barkers objected to this family, stating that they were annoying them and got Mr. Bradford to have them leave.

Special Agent in Charge E. J. Connelley received information from Mrs. A. T. Westberry to the effect that she had seen the Barkers burying some bottles to the north of the Bradford house in the orange grove. This Agent and Agent S. B. Winstead surveyed the orange grove to the north of the Bradford house, and dug in various places where Agents suspected that something was buried and were unable to find where anything was buried in the orange grove.

Agent later interviewed Mrs. Westberry and she stated to Agent that she saw the Barkers dig a garbage pit to the east of the house and then take bottles, empty cans, and other garbage to this pit and cover it up; then later dig a new pit to put their garbage in. No freshly dug hole was found anywhere in the yard, with the exception of an old garbage pit where empty bottles and cans, etc., were found. No bottles containing any money or anything of value were found anywhere buried on the Bradford place, which was occupied by the Barkers.

Agent, accompanied by Special Agent S. B. Winstead, made a cursory examination of a 1934 Buick coupe, which was in the garage at the south part of the yard, and it was noted that this coupe bore a 1934 Illinois license 750 074, motor number 8884746. Agent later found the keys to this car in the southwest room of the house, this room having been occupied by Kate Barker.

Agent interviewed Mrs. A. T. Westberry and her daughter, Wilma, who live in a house southwest of the one occupied by the Barkers, and across a small lane, near to the lake front and the Barker house. Mrs. Westberry stated that the people she knew as J. C. Blackburn and Mrs. Blackburn had lived in the Bradford house about two months and that she noticed that they acted rather queerly; that they kept watching anyone coming to the Westberry home and that Mrs. Blackburn nearly every morning would come out the front door of her house and come to the garage, which is between the two houses and slightly to the east, and would stand at the corner of the garage and look over the Westberry home; that she would then walk around the house and go back into her house from the other side of the Westberry home; that on one occasion she noticed a man who was visiting them who appeared to be a brother of Blackburn; however, he was much older and was more bald on the front of his head; that a man she knew as George Summers had visited the Blackburns and had been there about two weeks prior to Agents and had only left the Bradford place the Sunday before Agents' arrival; that George Summers was driving what she took to be a Ford or Chevrolet sedan; that she does not remember what license plates this car bore, but she thought it was a Florida plate, numbers unknown. Mrs. Westberry picked out the photograph of Alvin Karpis as being the man she had known as George Summers.

Mrs. Westberry stated that this man was accompanied by a woman whom she described as tall and slender, about twenty years of age, dark hair which was a rather long bob, curled on the ends in the back, was rather flashily dressed and walked with a haughty manner, smoked cigarettes incessantly and would appear each and every day with a different dress and coat on; that when this car they were driving came in it was very muddy and dirty and that it was washed the next day.

Mrs. Westberry further stated that on one occasion about three weeks ago she noticed a man driving what she took to be a Ford coupe, drive up to the front of the house and that Willie Woodbury, the negro who was employed by the Blackburns, placed a box of oranges and grapefruit in the rear of this car. She never noticed this man being about the place but on that one occasion; that he was neatly dressed

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was fair complected and a blonde, wore a gray over-coat and a light gray hat.

Agent questioned Willie Woodbury about the party for whom he loaded fruit in the back of his car and Woodbury recalled the incident and stated that he did not know who this man was, but he came to see the Blackburns on only one occasion so far as he knew; that he was driving a Ford V-8 coupe, a new model, but he does not remember what kind of license was on this car. Woodbury described him as being:

Height:	About five feet seven or eight inches
Age:	About twenty-five or twenty-six years
Weight:	145 pounds
Hair:	Blonde
Complexion:	Fair
Eyes:	Blue (he thinks)

that he was a neat dresser and he noticed that there were small gold fillings between his lower front teeth. Woodbury never heard the Blackburns call this man by name.

Willie Woodbury further stated that Fred Barker, whom he knew as J. G. Blackburn, occupied the northwest front room of the Bradford house and that his mother, Kate Barker, whom he had known as Mrs. Blackburn, occupied the southwest front room and that during the time that Harry Campbell, whom he had known as George Summers, stayed with the Barkers, he occupied the southeast room. All of these rooms are upstairs.

Woodbury further stated that during Christmas week the Barkers had two men visiting them, one of whom he understood was Fred Barker's brother, and Woodbury identified the photograph of "Doc" Barker as being this man, and that the other man was called "Slim". He identified the photograph of Russell Gibson as being the latter man. He stated that they came to the Barkers' house in a new model Ford V-8 coupe and that he saw a rifle which these men had with them and "Doc" Barker stated that it was a

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Springfield rifle; (This is evidently is one of the Browning automatic rifles taken out of Russell Gibson's room when he was killed in Chicago, Illinois, on the night of January 8, 1935.) That these two men stayed with the Barkers about three or four days and left; that he, Woodbury, never saw any rifle and that Fred Barker had with the exception of the 33 calibre rifle and the 22 rifle, and two shotguns which Fred took when he went out on the lake in a motor boat; that when he went around the place in the evening he would usually carry a 33 with him; that the Barkers had a closet upstairs in Fred Barker's room which they always kept locked and he now suspects that this closet is where they used to keep their arsenal.