

Frustrated grand jury fails to bring justice in Buffin murder

PHIL LATHAM

Editor & Publisher

The Morning News dogged the story on the grand jury's investigation of Ike Buffin's murder. On July 20, 1923, the newspaper reported County Attorney J.T. Casey as saying, "the matter is being thoroughly ground out and that when the taking of testimony is completed, he expects that there will be few stones unturned."

That same day, however, grand jury foreman J.F. Rosborough sent a notice to Judge P.O. Beard saying that the group would recess for an unspecified number of days while Casey worked upon "certain information."

Other members of that grand jury were N.R. Green, W.L. Martin, W.M. Green, H.L. Davidson, A.R. Everitt, H.E. Pelz, G.F. Molhusen, J.C. Calloway, W.N. Winston, Robert Hope

and G.L. Jones.

The grand jury would not meet again until July 24 and then would quickly adjourn until July 30, when it also met just one day before adjourning until Aug. 30, 1923.

If anyone had originally had hopes that the investigation would eventually find and charge culprits, it must have been gone by this time.

Some 18 months after the Klan claimed its first public victim and defied the county's court system, history was about to repeat itself.

Unlike the assault on Ray Daniels, the murder of Ike Buffin did not cause widespread outrage of the Klan in the white community, but the tenor of articles in both newspapers reflects that there was still a great deal of uneasiness to know that the Klan still controlled the levers of justice and it was not about to let go.



On Aug. 31, 1923, the Harrison County Grand Jury effectively gave up, realizing that it could not defeat the Klan's reign of terror among the black citizenry.

The frustration of grand jurors was palpable in the official report

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annelaubry

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