

Grand Jurors Say Buffin Murder Is Distinct Blot On Good Name Of County

The following is the report of the grand jury made yesterday afternoon at the conclusion of investigations made by this body. The grand jury was dismissed upon making this report:

Marshall, Texas, Aug. 31, 1923
To the Honorable P. O. Beard, Judge of the District Court of Harrison County, Texas:

We, the Grand Jury, empaneled for the June term of 1923, beg to submit our report as follows:

During the first session, of two days, we returned all bills on which we seemed to have secured sufficient evidence to justify indictments.

On July 14th, last there occurred in this county a most heinous, cowardly and unprovoked murder, of an old one armed negro man, with a family of twelve children. This murder occurred a few miles South of Jonesville and Waskom, Texas.

You called us together on July 17th to investigate this murder. We have used every effort to secure proper evidence in the case to bring these murderers to justice. While the Grand Jurors feel sure they know who these murderers are, and know the parties who they are sure know the murderers and could produce the evidence to convict them, still we are unable to secure this evidence, due to the fact that there is a reign of terror existing amongst the negroes from Jonesville and Waskom to Elysian Fields, brought about by a lawless element who have perpetrated a number of crimes during the past few years, and who have so far never been brought to justice.

The negro murdered, Ike Buffin, had been charged with no crime and so far as we can ascertain was guilty of nothing whatsoever, which brought about this ill feeling. It appears that one of his nephews was attacked at a negro baseball game the evening of the night of the murder, by some young white men, and Ike Buffin was not present and took no part in this trouble—this appears to be the only circumstance which would have brought on this unfortunate killing.

We regard this crime as a distinct blot on the good name of our county and recommend to the officers and next Grand Jury that every effort be made to continue this investigation, with a view of punishing these murderers.

The Grand Jury has elicited a great volume of evidence which we believe will finally terminate in the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of this crime, and such evidence is being carefully preserved.

We find that nine-tenths of the crime to which our attention has been directed is brought about directly or indirectly through illegal manufacture and use of intoxicating liquor, and we urge the strictest enforcement of the liquor laws.

We regret that our Sheriff has had a deputy who not only failed to enforce the liquor laws, but who is himself a violator of these laws. We

refer to R. A. Martin, deputy at Waskom, Texas.

Touching this matter, we would call attention to the report of the Grand Jury made in February, 1922, in which the following language was used:

"It is our opinion that the Sheriff has not always been wise in the selection of his deputies, and advise that in the future he should try to select, if possible, men of integrity, who will respect their oaths and enforce the law."

and we wish on the part of the grand jury to convey to the Sheriff this admonition.

However, we observe with much gratification, and wish to commend the Sheriff's department and the District Attorney's department for the great amount of work done within the past year in controlling the illegal handling of liquor in this county, and we urge these departments to continue their good efforts in this direction.

We would also commend the Sheriff on selection of his present jailor, who is efficient and kind to his prisoners.

It is a source of great gratification to this body to learn through the District Attorney's office that our petit jurors during the last year have been so faithful in the performance of their duties and through them criminals have been punished as probably never before in this county.

Respectfully,

J. F. Rosborough, Foreman,
N. R. Green,
W. L. Martin,
W. M. Green,
H. L. Davidson,
A. R. Everitt,
H. E. Pelz,
G. F. Mohusen,
J. C. Calloway,
W. N. Winston,
Robt. Hope,
G. L. Jones.

BUMBLE BEE LANDS HOOTCH MAN IN JAIL

Los Angeles, Aug. 31.—A bee pushed John Gadsby into the county jail yesterday.

When two dry agents from the office of Division Director E. E. Highard went to John's place at 456 Hewday street to look for the liquor supply which John was reported to be hoarding, John gave them the laugh. "You can keep all the booze you want here, gents," he declared.

The agents looked through all the cubby-holes and outbuildings on Mineo place. There was a tantalizing, or at least a tangible suggestion of "hootch" in the air but they could not locate it.

"Gents, you are in the right channel but the wrong pew," smiled the taster of the place as he followed the baffled and perspiring agents about the place.