

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
REPORTS REGARDING BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES

IN

SOUTHERN COLORADO

December 14, 1918

through

November 21, 1919

Casefile: 23623

Transcribed by: Michael O'Haire

Reporting Officer: ROY O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER	Report Date: Dec. 16, 1918.	Incident Date: Dec. 14, 1918.
Incident Reference: IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:			

At Denver:

Continuing my report of Dec. 6th., I today received from Mr. J.P. Dunlavy, Under Sheriff, Trinidad, Colo., the two letters received by Joseph Castiglia. I arranged to have photostete copies of these letters made by the Forest Service and will forward them ~~with copy of this report.~~ later.

As a further light on the character of Vincenzo Falconi, mentioned in my report of 6th inst., Mr. Dunlavy stated that during the summer of this year Falconi resided in a rooming house in Pueblo conducted by one Mattie Baker; that one night Falconi and other Italians were engaged in a disturbance and a call was sent to the Police Department; that Police Office M. J. Gordon went to the rooming house and as he walked up the stairs and neared the top, one of the Italians fired three shots at him; that thereupon Mrs. Baker gave to the Police all the information she had concerning Falconi and the other Italians and furnished Falconi's photograph; that about six weeks later Mrs. Baker disappeared and later her body was found partially buried at a remote point in the outskirts of Pueblo and it is the concener of opinion of the Police Department that she was slain because of the information given by her to the Police Department.

I was advised that Police Officer Charles E. Beatty of Pueblo, is a man well versed concerning the names, records, etc., of the large foreign element of Pueblo and vicinity:

IN RE: BLACK HAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO

that he would be of great assistance to any Agent of the Bureau, or of the Post Office Department who might be detailed in this case.

The fact is also said to be that the Twenty-ninth of July Saloon, when owned by Frank Manzoli, was named in honor of the day when one of the Kings of Italy was assassinated.

Reporting Officer: ROY O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER	Report Date: Dec. 17, 1918.	Incident Date: Dec. 16, 1918.
Incident Reference: IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:			

At Denver: Colo

Continuing my report of 14th inst., Agent today secured photostatic copies of the Black Hand letters sent to Joseph Castiglia and forward same herewith. The translation of the letter marked Exhibit "A" is as follows:

"Dear Friend.

I ask you to bring with you 2500 D. which I need so badly under penalty of your own life, your family's, your goats and your dogs.

You have 3 days time. Do it at once before your time expires. Further I will tell you that I have written a letter with this address, Pietro Castiglia, and get the person to whom you must deliver it. Don't make me write again. This is the second and I have seen nothing of it. The third letter, is enough said.

Good bye, Goodbye. "

Translation of the letter marked Exhibit "B" is as follows:

"Man with horns. Are you laughing at me? Come out of it! Deliver the coin at once, upon receipt of these presents. Twenty four hours of time. Otherwise death. Abide by this command. This is the last opportunity we will give you. Peril to your head and end to your dogs. I further tell you to tell no one for you will pay the price. Present yourself at once and nothing more."

Copy of the letter written by Castiglia to his son, mentioned in my report of the 6th, is as follows:

"Dear son of mine at home. So many things are happening to me. Those who are doing this surely are Silvestro Inga, Capotesa.

2. His son Guiseppi.
3. Salvatore Marmino.
4. Salvatore, I don't know his surname. He stays in the house of Dominick Pistones.
5. Paul, his brother in law of Dominic Pistone.
6. Carmelo Gardegna living near Trinidad and his companions.

I subscribe myself.

G. Castiglia. "

Care mi figlie In casa mi so c'è
 qualche cosa, letore sono & sicuro
 Se li vestro Inga capotesta secanto
 il suo figlio Giuseppe Cenzo Salvatore
 Hermino 4 Salvatore non so il cognome
 abitante in casa di Domenico Pestone
 5 pagole cognate di Domenico Pestone
 6 sto carnale Sardegna abitante territorio
 di Trinità e compagne
 Sotto mi firmo
 G. Castiglia

mi 7.

Giuseppe Castiglia

Aquila Cole

Es. a

Dominica Belle Bonum



Curioso che la casa è una
 molto grande e molto
 con la recente una
 attualmente la morte
 e l'innanzi questa
 mi trovo che non
 come prima la casa
 l'una li cani
 tutto l'idea di non
 la hitto a H) o ho
 più pezzi
 Presente sube 116
 aff.

Stefano P. Vico
Via ...
Lyon

Stefano P. Vico
Via ...
Lyon

Stefano P. Vico
Via ...
Lyon

con ...
prezzo di portare
2000 di che mi hanno troppo
di tempo. pena la vita non
sempre capisco e come
avete tempo e gli ma fate
part. prima di lui, visto tem
po. per ... dice che
non sono periti. Una lettera
con questo indirizzo Fichte Costello
e trovate la persona con la soviet
tore non mi fate scriver più
questo e la seconda e non
avete niente alla terza non
parla
a. deo. d. deo.

Reporting Officer: ROY O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER COLO	Report Date: Jany. 9, 1919	Incident Date: Jany. 7, 1919
Incident Reference: <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:</u>			

At Denver:

Continuing my report of December 6th, 1918, I am in receipt of the following letter from Chief of Bureau, (M.E.A.) which closes the investigation in this office:

" Referring to your letter of the 14th ult., concerning the blackhand activities in Southern Colorado, it would seem that this matter is one peculiarly within the province of the Postal Authorities, unless the intimidation of the Government witnesses us involved in the threats. I note you intended to bring the matter to the attention of the Post Office Inspector and I presume you have worked out an arrangement with him."

Chief,
Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLO.:

I beg to again refer to my reports in the above entitled matter and to my report of today, copy of which is attached hereto.

During my conference with Sheriffs Neelley and McQuarrie, they urged strongly that the Department of Justice give them some assistance, notwithstanding your letter of January 2nd., (M.E.A.), for the reason that they have turned over to Post Office Inspectors a number of matters of this character without ever having received any benefit or result therefrom.

I have had several conferences with Post Office Inspector in Charge George Daniel, who stated that the matter had been referred to their Inspector working in Southern Colorado, and I beg to state confidentially that Mr. Daniel Intimated that nothing would probably come from their investigations as long as the murders were confined to the Italians.

I strongly urge that Agent Pigiuolo be sent to this district for a preliminary investigation at least.

Yours respectfully

Roy O. Samson

Special Agent in Charge

ROS/MLB

Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Jany. 9, 1919	Incident Date: Jany. 8, 1919
Incident Reference: <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:</u>			

AT DENVER:

Continuing my report of the 7th., inst., I today had a conference with Sheriff Lee Neelley of Walsenburg, Colorado, Deputy Sheriff Jack McQuarrie of Trinidad and Frank Lopresto, an Italian resident of Aguilar.

Mr. McQuarrie stated that on December 30th Antonio Lopresto of Aguilar, (mentioned in my former reports as the man who killed Dominic Pistoni after the latter attempted to kill him) left Aguilar to consult with his attorney at Pueblo, that after consultation with his attorney (a man named Hoffmire) Lopresto stated he was going to the home of an Italian named Parlaplano, but that he never reached Parlaplano's house and has not been seen since; that about December 27th the two Italians came from Pueblo to Aguilar and stopped at Lopresto's rooming house, without registering or giving their names, and the only means of identification of one is that he is a nephew of an Italian in Pueblo named Antonio Viola; that on Sunday, December 29th, these two Italians left Lopresto's and stated they were going back to Pueblo that morning, but instead they went over to Pistoni's and took the same train for Pueblo with Antonio Lopresto on Sunday afternoon; that Antonio Lopresto and Tony Lopresto were on this train together and Antonio pointed out these two Italians as members of the Blackhand gang.

The theory of the offices is that the two Italians succeeded in getting Antonio Lopresto to the truck farm of one John Mulhs in Pueblo, who is another Italian with a Blackhand record, with several murders charged to him, and after killing Lopresto, disposed

of his body; that this theory is strengthened by the fact that Sylvestro and Joe Inga, father and son mentioned in my former reports as being the heads of the blackhand, were with Viola's nephew and the other man during the entire day in Aguilar.

Mr. McQuarrie further states that John Mulhs, Pistoni, Palisano and a goatherder working for the latter, are the men who shot Charles Lopresto following a demand for money; that Charles Lopresto was at Palisano's goat farm and Palisano endeavored to detain him there until dark, in the meantime sending the goatherder away. That during the day Pistoni and Hulhs arrived at the goat farm. That Charles and Antonio Lopresto left the goat farm before dark in their car and while driving through an arroyo, noticed the goatherder standing on a hill about 100 yards from the road; that around the bend in the road Pistoni and Palisano jumped out with guns in their hands and ordered them to stop. That they did not stop and were fired upon, the windshield in the car being broken and Charles Lopresto received a wound through his arm. Reference to the shooting of Charles Lopresto was made in my report of Dec. 6th, 1918.

It will be recalled from the report of December 6th that shortly after the shooting of Charles Lopresto, Tony Lopresto and Dominic Pistoni had an argument in which the latter was killed. Frank Lopresto (the Italian referred to in the first paragraph of this report, now states that ever since the killing of Pistoni, the Viola crowd has been making friendly advances to Antonio Lopresto, patting him on the back for his courage, etc., and telling him what a great man he was and continually inviting him to Pueblo to John Mulhs's place; that it apparently was nothing but a scheme on their part to get Antonio to a place where he could be disposed of, and it appears as though they have been successful.

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:

Mr. McQuarrie stated that it is the invariable history of each murder case that prior to the murder the Italian suspects have been seen at Inga's ranch.

Since Lopresto's disappearance, his wife has received two letters, one written in English in a woman's handwriting and mailed on a train. stating that Tony is dead. She received another letter from Denver written in Italian stating that Tony was going back to New York City to see his brother Charles. No belief is placed in the letter for the reason that Tony was a man about sixty years if age and badly crippled in both feet with rheumatism, which would prevent him from making a trip to New York without assistance.

It is now stated by Mr. McQuarrie and Frank Lopresto that Joe Colombo and Joe Inga are probably the murderers of Joe Campanio.

Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Jany. 11, 1919	Incident Date: Jany. 10, 1919
Incident Reference: <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:</u>			

AT DENVER:

Continuing my report of the 8th, I had another conference today with Sheriff Neelley of Walsenburg and Undersheriff Dunlevy of Trinidad, and was advised that Frank and Tony Lopresto (Sons of Antonio Lopresto, mentioned in my report of the 8th as having disappeared) were threatened with death if they did not cease their efforts to locate their father's body, or the cause of his disappearance; that these threats were communicated to Sam Lopresto, an uncle, who refuses to tell the name of the man who communicated with him.

The above named officers also gave me the name of James Keeley, Frank Lynch and W. E. McCafferty, all special agents of The Denver and Rio Grande R.R.Co., at Pueblo, who are well acquainted with a number of persons mentioned in my previous reports, and who should be interviewed as to their knowledge of these people.

Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Jany. 21, 1919	Incident Date: Jany. 20, 1919
Incident Reference: <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:</u>			

AT DENVER:

Continuing my report of the 10th, Sheriff John J. Marty and Undersheriff Dunlevy of Trinidad, called at the office again today and Mr. Dunlevy submitted a memorandum of Black Hand Activities which was given to him by Malcolm Erickson, Deputy District Attorney of Trinidad. Mr. Erickson told Mr. Dunlevy that this memorandum was given to him by an Italian whose name he had promised not to reveal for the reason that the Italian feared death by the Blackhand if it was ever known he had given the information.

The memorandum is as follows:

"Dominic Pistoni - Chief Agitator
 Sam Mamimo - Ludlow on Joe Valenti's ranch
 Son-in-law of Joe Valenti
 Sylvestro Inga - Aguilar
 Joe Inga - Son of Sylvestro Inga, Aguilar
 Mariano Barberri - Ranch near Ludlow
 Augusti Palamanteri - Pueblo, Colorado
 Robber chiefly - occupation - never worked.
 Joe -- - - Pueblo
 start a little store sometimes, sell imported oil, etc, for a month or two
 Alphonse Rei - Live in Denver, Carpenter.
 Joe Riggio's brother-in-law.
 7 years ago Pistoni and Mamimo killed a fellow in Aguilar, Ignacio Di Salvo. Turned loose by sheriff for \$800. Di Salvo was a blackhand, stole a ----- from Nicole Ordo and sold it in Pueblo, didn't split on money so they killed him.
 Vincenzo Provenzo. Pistoni and Mamimo killed him for his wife. She paid them \$300, to do it. Then Pistoni had her killed by two other men who have now gone - young fellows.
 Joe Companio, killed by Sylvestro Inga and Mariano Barbieri (lives below Ludlow on ranch) for Dominic Pistoni. They wrote blackhand letters to numerous people demanding money. People went to Companio. He advised them to pay. They killed him.
 Pistoni, etal killed Salvatore ----- 1913, (selling shoes for Joe Palisano, Walsenburg) threw his body

in well . Found by Felipe Companio, son of Joe Companio. Father afraid to say anything. Took body in hills above Ludlow and burned it. Well belonged to Provenza.

Four years ago fellow, Salvatore ----, came from old country with about 500 gallons oil. Pistoni stole it. Fellow died from grief.

Last October Pistoni shot at Vito Alphonso (ranch above Aguilar) and wounded him. Pistoni and another man). Vito Alphonso said Vito La Roca stole Gresham horse about three years ago. Vita La Roca tried; turned loose. Vita La Roca was one of gang. Now gone.

Rosario Donesio store bombed. Thrown by Pistoni personally - on account of cheese scrap.

Received Black Hand Letters:

Paolo Costa

Lorenzo Pino - Robinson Ave.

George Viana - Jansen

Antonio Alphonso - Aguilar (Primero when received letter took shot at him paid them \$500.)

Ilnacio Paino - Peddler lives here. Paid \$200. Paid to Palamenteri.

Dominic Camino - didn't pay money. Pistoni wrote letter.

Vincenzo De Vita - Walsenburg - Rancher. Pistoni wrote letter. Didn't pay. Had to leave country.

John Graviano. Paid \$200. to Sam Mamimo

Antonio Zappante paid \$200. to Pistoni 3 years ago.

C. Graviano has a letter. Hasn't paid money. Took a shot at him once. Missed him.

Z. Orlando. Shot at by Pistoni in Aguilar, Colorado on head. Lost hat as he rode away.

Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Feby. 1, 1919	Incident Date: Jany. 30, 1919
Incident Reference: <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:</u>			

AT DENVER:

Continuing my report of January 20th, I received from Undersheriff J. P. Dunlavy of Trinidad, Colorado, a blackhand letter written to George Deuto and pardner of Grey Creek Post Office near Trinidad, as follows:

"Mr. Deuto and pardner:

We beg to inform you that by February 12th you must pay us \$1000. and if you do not do so you will be subject to whatever punishment the committee decides."

There is no date nor signature to the letter with the exception of the two pencil crosses at the end. A comparison of the written and printed letters indicates strongly that the letter was sent by the same person or persons mentioned in previous reports.

U.S. Attorney, Denver
Post Office Inspector, Denver.

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Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Feby. 8, 1919	Incident Date: Feby. 7, 1919
Incident Reference: <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:</u>			

AT DENVER:

Continuing my report of January 30th, I was today advised that one Sam Bruno, and Italian residing near Walsenburg, Colorado, went to the home of Frank Lopresto, mentioned in previous reports, and called him to the door; that when Lopresto appeared Bruno attempted to shoot him, but Lopresto fired first and killed Bruno. It afterward developed Lopresto had been warned of a possible attempt on his life by Bruno and that Bruno had long been suspected of being one of the blackhanders; that Bruno was known to have been stealing dynamite from the mine in which he was employed and the suggestion was made that he intended blowing up Lopresto's house. After the shooting a satchel that Bruno carried was examined and found to contain dynamite.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: Feb 15, '19.	Incident Date: Feb. 12, '19.
Incident Reference: In Re: Black-hand Activities in Southern Colorado.			

At Walsenburg, Colorado.

FRANK LOPRESTO, the son of CHARLES LOPRESTO, recently shot and killed JOE BRUNO. The father of FRANK LOPRESTO was shot at and severely wounded by a member of the blackhanders about one year ago. In the winter of 1918 ANTONIO LOPRESTO an uncle of FRANK LOPRESTO, mysteriously disappeared and it has been alleged that the blackhand organization was responsible for his disappearance. FRANK LOPRESTO was actively engaged in securing information concerning his uncle's disappearance and his father's assailants. A few days ago SAM LOPRESTO, an uncle of FRANK's, called at the home of the latter in WALSENBURG and warned him to keep out of the inquiry and that the best thing for him to do would be to leave the country. The uncle also stated that this warning came from the blackhanders and that the uncle knew that one JOE BRUNO, who was working in a mine at PRYOR, was drawing more powder than he was using and this powder was being taken by BRUNO to some point in WALSENBURG and that it was carried in a small grip which was secreted in the trunk of BRUNO at PRYOR. SAM LOPRESTO and the Sheriff's office agreed that when these two men appeared, BRUNO carrying the satchel, that both would be arrested, this for the protection of SAM LOPRESTO, however, this arrangement was not carried out because BRUNO came to WALSENBURG in an automobile driven by a man named MURRAY. BRUNO arrived at WALSENBURG about noon, having in his possession the satchel above

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mentioned. When leaving the automobile on Main Street at WALSENBURG near the Court House, BRUNO went hurriedly in the direction of the home of JOE RIGGIO. BRUNO had previously stated that he was going to the home of RIGGIO. Later in the afternoon BRUNO was directed to the home of FRANK LOPRESTO by ANTONIO LOPRESTO, JR. At about the time that ANTONIO LOPRESTO, JR. was giving the directions to BRUNO as to how to reach LOPRESTO's home, FRANK LOPRESTO called the Sheriff's office and was there informed that BRUNO was going to his home. LOPRESTO, fearing that his house would be immediately blown up as he had been warned that it would be, immediately returned to his home and there and in the yard was JOE BRUNO. BRUNO asked FRANK LOPRESTO if he (FRANK) could secure employment for him at PRYOR in the mines to which LOPRESTO Replied he could not. BRUNO then invited LOPRESTO to go with him to the RIGGIO home. LOPRESTO refused whereupon BRUNO placed his hand in an inner pocket and made the remark "I'll kill you now then." FRANK LOPRESTO drew first, however, and fired six shots into the body of BRUNO. FRANK LOPRESTO has been exonerated by the Coroner's Jury but insisted that the matter be regularly heard in the Court of Record and he was, at his own request, arrested by the Sheriff's office and is now out on bonds. LOPRESTO called at the Sheriff's office, by request, and verified the above statement made by the Sheriff.

SAM LOPRESTO refused to attend the Coroner's inquest as a witness, claiming illness as his excuse. Asked FRANK LOPRESTO to summons his uncle to the Sheriff's office of some other place for the purpose of an interview. FRANK later stated that his uncle

In Re: BLACKHAND Activities in Southern Colorado.

R. Lee Craft

February 12, '19-Cont'd.

has left the country and he does not know where he has gone: that he left on February 11th in the night and his destination is unknown but it is thought he has gone to join the father of FRANK LOPRESTO in NEW YORK.

Asked FRANK LOPRESTO to give a list of those Sicilians known to him to be blackhanders and now living in HUERFANO COUNTY and he gave the name of JOE PALISANO of WALSENBURG as one of the leaders. JOE PALISANO conducts a store there and according to the Sheriff's story has personally written a letter demanding money which letter was sent through the United States Mail and was referred to the Postoffice Department about two years ago. Sheriff NEELLEY states that he can prove that PALISANO write this blackhand letter. GIUSEPPE PALISANO, a brother of JOE PALISANO and who lives near LESTER, COLORADO on a goat farm. JOE PALISANO is said to be a naturalized citizen while GIUSEPPE PALISANO is not. JOE RIGGIO runs a small store at WALSENBURG and is said to have acquired citizenship papers. He has a son MIKE RIGGIO. It was in the home of MIKE RIGGIO that the dynamite, brought by BRUNO from the mines, was stored. Both JOE RIGGIO and MIKE, especially, was very much in evidence at the Coroner's inquest making careful note of all evidence given by the various witnesses at this hearing and within a few moments after the killing of BRUNO, JOE RIGGIO appeared on the scene and was very active. TONY TESATORI of WALSENBURG is said to be a leading light in the blackhand organization. JOE FERCCABIENO of WALSENBURG is said to be one of the destroying angels. JOE MOSCO

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was implicated in the attempt to kill CHARLES LOPRESTO. It is said that his chief occupation is killing and robbing. Mrs. PISTONI at AGUILAR, whose husband was killed by ANTONIO LOPRESTO, JR. when PISTONI attempted to enforce his blackhand demands, is said to be the leading spirit of the blackhands at AGUILAR. It is at her home where the blackhanders meet. GAETANO DANNA and his brother PAULO DANNA, brothers of MRS. PISTONI, make their headquarters at her home. They are known violators of the law and are typical blackhanders. These two men are now at liberty on bonds for Violation of the Reed Amendment and Section 240 C.C. JOE COLUMBO, who has many aliases, is also associated with the DANNAS and also makes his headquarters at the home of MRS. PISTONI. JOE COLUMBO is known at PUEBLO to be an offender. He is also known to the Sheriff of Fremont County to be an offender against the State Laws. FRANK LOPRESTO further states that SAM FABRIZIO, who until December 1918 was State Prohibition Officer, is intimately associated with JOE COLUMBO and these two men are friends: that FABRIZIO was the Godfather of JOE COLUMBO'S child, or vice versa he does not know which. LOPRESTO says that it is common talk, however, that SAM FABRIZIO is connected with the blackhanders. He says that JOE COLUMBO made the statement to him that if he could get whiskey through LAS ANIMAS AND HUERFANO COUNTIES he would be alright as he would be protected in PUEBLO COUNTY and that SAM FABRIZIO would see him through. JOHN MULE and CHARLES MULE of PUEBLO COUNTY are blackhands and related to the RIGGIOS both of PUEBLO and WALSENBURG. JOHN MULE us charged with the attempt to murder CHARLES LOPRESTO. SYLVESTER

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February 13, '19-Cont'd.

INGA and his son JOE have a goat ranch near AGUILAR: they are credited with at least one killing in LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, that one JOE COMPANIO and they have been very active in making written demands for money and carrying out the threads in these demands. MARIANO BARBERRI is another blackhand living on a goat ranch near LUDLOW. This BARBERRI, as shown by previous report entitled "Gaetanna Danna et al, Liquor Violation", is associated with MRS. PISTONI at AGUILAR and it was from BARBERRI that the DANNAS secured a team of horses with which whiskey was imported from NEW MEXICO to COLORADO. It is stated that BARBERRI is not a citizen. BEN MULLINARA lives near JANSEN. He is an unnaturalized Sicilian and said to be a spy for the blackhanders and is a known bootlegger. It is MULLINARA who hauled approximately one hundred cases of whiskey from NEW MEXICO to COLORADO for the PUTATURA BROS of TRINIDAD. After getting this whiskey into COLORADO MULLINARA got PISTONI and COLUMBO to steal this whiskey from him and then they proceeded to sell it.

FRANK LOPRESTO states that there is an Italian who uses the name of FISH who is now in PUEBLO and associated with JOE COLUMBO: that FISH is not engaged in any particular business and occupies his time in stealing, robbing and killing. AUGUSTINO PALANANTERI of PUEBLO is another blackhand and law violator. LOPRESTO says that he knows that AUGUSTINO PALANANTERI sent a note to his father, CHARLES LOPRESTO, at PRYOR, COLORADO by GUISEPPE PALISANO requesting that CHARLES LOPRESTO SEND to him, at PUEBLO, a quantity of Yellowstone whiskey for the purpose of bootlegging.

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February 12, '19-Cont'd.

FRANK LOPRESTO appears to be a very fearless sort of ITALIAN and who is determined, so he says, not to be run out of the country by blackhanders and stated that he is willing and would continue to gather all the information he could concerning the activities of those mentioned in the above list and any others coming to his notice and would supply this Department, through the Sheriff at WALSENBURG, with this information so secured. He says that in this list of names, contained in this report, he knows of no naturalized Italians other than JOE RIGGIO and JOE PALISANO and he is not sure that they are citizens.

Have asked Sheriff at WALSENBURG to obtain from the County Coroner a list of all the killings occurring in that county within the last few years and to give as much of the circumstances of these various killings, as is possible. Have also requested the Sheriff to obtain from the District Attorney a list of the attempts to kill and all bomb plots and such other acts as are attributed to the blackhands and supply this office with that information.

Case open.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: Feb 15, '19.	Incident Date: Feb. 12, '19.
Incident Reference: In Re: Blackhand Activities in Southern Colorado.			

At Trinidad, Colorado.

Requested Undersheriff DUNLAVY to obtain from the coroner of LAS ANIMAS COUNTY a list of the killings occurring there in the last few years. JOHN BRADLEY, Coroner, submitted a list of fifteen killings occurring there in the last four years. Most of these murders are attributed to the blackhand organization. Many of the circumstances connected with these killings are not remembered by the Coroner but are still in the memory of some of the officials at TRINIDAD and MR. DUNLAVY has agreed to secure all the information he can regarding the various killings, as shown by this list, and submit the same to this office. MR. DUNLAVY will also get all the data that he can from the District Attorney at TRINIDAD as to all bomb plots and other attempts to murder and destroy and submit those facts.

Case open.

Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Feby. 16, '19.	Incident Date: 2/15/1919
Incident Reference: IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:			

AT DENVER:

Continuing my report of February 7th, I submit the following letter received by me from Undersheriff J. P. Dunlevy of Trinidad:

" Am enclosing a letter which was sent to Gio Duto of Grey Creek this county from a "blackhand" source. This is the first letter sent. You already have the second one in this matter. Please retain and use for what it is worth.

I was at Aguilar a few days ago and called to see Mrs. Antonio Lopresto, - Rosa. Upon sight of me she broke down and cried bitterly and uttered in her own language partially only intelligible to me "poor Tony! poor Tony" and took a little medalion from her waist and kissed it which had Tony's picture on it and broke down completely. She said Tony was killed at Pueblo at the house of one Viola, - I think that is the name. I through an interpreter told her that Tony was probably in New York. She said, "No. he would tell me." She evidently from her acts does not know of his whereabouts. But she rather thought there might be something in our contention. She has a guard at the house all of the time as she fears violence. Among other things she said the Mexican girl has been advised by the brother of Mrs. Pistone not to work there for some of these days the house would be blown up. This brother in law is probably either Paul or Giovanni Danna who are up before the Federal Grand Jury on the 20th at which date I will be present.

It looks better in Huerfano County where I was yesterday. No one claims the body of Joe Bruno who was killed by Frank Lopresto and there is an absence of cutting out a holiday or celebration of his internment and the strewing of flowers, It may be that these people are thinking that the killing game is one indulged in by all nations and people both civilized and uncivilized and the penalty of a life for a life has some standing even in the Christian Religion.

With personal regards beg to be."

The letter enclosed is apparently the work of the men or man who have sent all the others and the general translation of it is as follows:

"Mr. Gio Duto: This is the second notice you have received and we will not send any more, instructing you to leave One Thousand dollars at the place

United States attorney, Denver
Post Office Inspector in Charge

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:

"designated by the 30th of this month, otherwise you know the penalty. This means your partner also."

Two pencil crosses follow this letter which was mailed at Pueblo December 22, 1918.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: Feb 27, '19.	Incident Date: Feb. 26, '19.
Incident Reference: IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO,			

At Pueblo.

Pursuant to request Sheriff NEELLEY gathered the following data which was received at this office today together with MR. NEELLEY'S comment. The Sheriff, in his below quoted communication, has not, in Agent's opinion, exaggerated the conditions that exist in that district :-

"February-25-19.

R. Lee Craft,
Pueblo, Colo.
Dear Sir :-

In answer to your communication of some time ago beg leave to state that I have been working on this stuff as much as I could, having been away most of last week. I am sending you what I have been able to gather so far, you know this is very slow work and it takes some time to get this stuff in shape; I have gotten this information from several different sources and they nearly all correspond, and I believe this report is almost absolutely reliable, in fact I am positive that most is this report is correct and can be relied upon and will be a very fine base to work from in case that some secret Italian is put to work on this case. I am more than willing to go my full limit in helping the Government ferret out this thing to the very bottom. I consider this class of people the most dangerous that we have in the United States today; there is nothing to compare with them when it comes to low down, cold blooded nefarious work. The Government, in my estimation, should act swift and without fear or felling in these cases as this is the most coldblooded organization in the world, and they are getting powerful in this country.

Trusting this information will assist you in getting to the bottom of this organization and again assuring you of the hearty co-operation of my office, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,
E. L. Neelley."

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

 R. Lee Craft

February 26, '19-Cont'd.

'In-Re. Blackhand suspects

February-24-19.

Francisco Luja or Lanzi. With firm of Luja & Prisianyano, New York. Comes here every May pretending to buy cheese but comes to organiza Black-handers and stays around Palisanos most of the time. Usually stays in the country from four to six weeks.

-----cantilli. Comes from New Orleans, La. Comes to this country every spring and remains in the country from four to six weeks. He claims to be buying Goat cheese, visiting all the goat ranches. His main object is organizing amount the Black-handers. He stops with Sado Skido in Pueblo; Pestonnis in Aguilar and Rosario Donino in Trinidad.

Chas. Parlapiano. Runs store in Pueblo. Blackhander and Bootlegger.

-----Perrcone. Runs store in Pueblo. Blackhander and Bootlegger.

Sado Skido. Connected with store in Pueblo. Comes to Walsenburg frequently, visits Palisanos, drives Ford car also red Moon car. Buys Cheese peddles Oils. A professional Boot-legger and Blackhander.

Joe Rigio. Runs store in Walsenburg, Blackhand meeting place. sells booze, entertains the blackhanders. Murdered Simon Nara last February, shot him with an automatic then chopped him to pieces with an axe. Now under \$25,000.00 bonds awaiting trial. Mrs. Joe Rigio enticed Nara into store then locked the door and murdered him. Rigio is one of the leaders in Walsenburg. He went to Trinidad about a year ago, at the time that an Italian that was living east of El Moro lost his daughter and was asked \$2000.00 for her return and compromised the case for \$600.00, This same Italian was notified to come to Walsenburg and go on the bond of Rigio and is one of the bondsman.

Liddio Frachibino. Lives on the Vast Ranch just North of Walsenburg. Reputed Bootlegger, Distiller, Thief, Blackhander.

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

R. Lee Craft

February 26, '19-Cont'd.

Nofrio Callini. Lives in Walsenburg. Runs Dodge Service car. Peddles and Bootlegs. Killed calf in the hills up on Bear Creek in 1917, his wagon mule tracks followed around through the hills and to his house but when we caught the wagon and team, three days later, a hired man was driving the team. He was acquitted in the District Court as we could not prove positively that he was driving the team the night that the beef was killed.

Toni Tessitori. Store in Walsenburg. Member of Blackhand gang, a hangout for Blackhanders. At one time owned a goat ranch up Bear Creek.

Rosario Donisio. Has a little grocery store on Arizona Ave. near Kit Carson Park, Trinidad. Buys cheese some times and bootlegs.

Domenic Pestonni. Ran store in Aguilar with Dana Brothers. Dana Brothers are brothers of Mrs. Pestonni. Pestonni was leader of blackhanders in Aguilar. He was killed by Antonio LoPresto. Man now boarding at Mrs. Pestonnis is the present leader of gang in Aguilar.

Mrs. Pestonni. Aguilar, wife of the deceased, now connected with Dana Brothers. runs store. noted bootleggers and blackhanders.

Gaetna Dana and Brother Brothers of Mrs. Pestonni and connected with her in the store at Aguilar. Noted blackhanders, bootleggers and general all around crooks.

Joe Colombo. Lives in Pueblo. Professional Bootlegger and Blackhander.

Sam Fabrizio. Former State prohibition Officer. Now Special Agent for the Santa Fe Ry. Lives in Pueblo. Spy for bootleggers and blackhanders. Joe Colombo told Frank LoPresto in Aguilar last summer that Fabrizio always kept the road open for them so that they could get into Pueblo with automobile loads of liquor. In Fact, told LoPresto to get me to let the cars of booze through Huerfano County and he would guaranty safe delivery in Pueblo. Said that Fabrizio would keep the road open into Pueblo.

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

R. Lee Craft

February 26, '19-Cont'd.

Joe Palisano. Leader of Blackhanders in Huerfano County. Runs shoe store in Walsenburg. Makes frequent trips to Pueblo and Aguilar. In every Court where blackhanders are connected in any way with the Courts. Makes himself very prominent when he thinks any of his friends are about to get into trouble. Wrote three letters to Mrs. Bartelero of Walsenburg in 1916 demanding \$1000.00 be placed at a certain spot in Walsenburg. Sheriff was on guard at this spot where the money was placed. Two men came down the alley where money was placed and spoiled the trap. These letters were turned over to the United States Secret Service. (P.O.Dept.)

The letters threatened to blow her home up, burn her eyes out and all kinds of things.

Guissepe Palisano. Has a goat ranch about one mile above Lester. Brother of Joe Palisano. Laid a trap last summer to kill Chas. LoPresto. Had LoPresto come up to the ranch one afternoon and tried to detain him until dark but LoPresto got suspicious and got in his car with his son Tony and returned to his home in Pryor. On the way home (about) five hundred yards below Palisano ranch) he was ordered to halt by two men, on refusing to stop they began shooting. Shot LoPresto in the right arm, almost shooting his right arm off. In the summer of 1918 and Italian had been herding goats for Palisano until he had about \$175.00 coming to him. The herder had been missing about ten days when his body was found up in the hills badly decomposed. Some five or six years ago another man who was herding goats for this same Palisano disappeared in the same manner and was found later, dead.

Joe Bruno. Lived in Pryor. Made frequent trips to Walsenburg with small handbag, which now we know to have contained dynamite, and caps. Came to town on February 5th with the handbag full of dynamite went to Joe Rigio's house on 7th street ate, dinner, left the hand bag and got a fellow to go with him to show him where Frank LoPresto lived; LoPresto met him at the house, had a talk with him and when LoPresto asked him what he did with the dynamite, Bruno tried to pull his gun and was shot and killed by LoPresto, who had been threatened with death by the Blackhanders.

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

R. Lee Craft

February 26, '19-Cont'd.

Mrs. Joe Rigio. Wife of Joe Riggio. Lives on 7th Street, Walsenburg. Lives in back of store at the time Nara was murdered, about a year ago. Under \$10000.00 bond.

Mike Riggio. Son of Joe Riggio. Runs a peddling wagon. Was living in Des Moines, N.M. until two days before Nra was murdered. Joe Riggio had Mike to come home. Mike arrived two days before Nara was killed, and was at the home of Joe Riggio when the murder was committed. Now under \$10,000.00 bond as an accomplice.

Mariana Barbara. Now living on Goat Ranch on Bear Creek. Formerly lived on Goat Ranch near Aguilar. Blackhander. Killed a Mexican on his ranch when living near Aguilar and threw body in a well.

Joe Frachibino. Lives on ranch just north of Walsenburg, Reputed blackhander, distiller, bootlegger, and an undesirable citizen.

Joe Mosco. Runs store in Walsenburg. Peddles; reputed blackhander. Very prominent in signing blackhanders bonds. Bootlegger.

-----Fish -----(dont know first name) Now living in Pueblo. Professional bootlegger and blackhander. Held up and robbed a Slav in Aguilar about a year ago, of his watch and money.

John Mula. Lives on ranch on St. Charles River, below Pueblo. Was connected with the shooting of Chas. LoPresto last year. Killed one or more men around the Steel Works at Pueblo, in the past few years. Reputed professional killer and blackhander.

Chas. Mula. Son-in-law of Joe Riggio. Chas. Mula now living in Fremont County, runs small store, reputed blackhander and bootlegger.

Sylvestro, Joe and Jim Inga. Goat ranch in canon above Aguilar. Professional blackhanders and bootleggers. Hiding place for blackhanders when they commit a crime of any kind. Very bad bunch.

Mariana Barbetti See Mariana Barbera above. same man.

IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

R. Lee Craft

February 26, '19-Cont'd.

BEN Mulinarri. Gardner at Jansen. Hauls booze with teams from N.M. Professional blackhander and bootlegger.

Joe Riggio. Lives in Trinidad. Living in Santa Frederiocca house. Runs trucks, peddles booze and reputed blackhander.

Joe Vallenti. Also known as Joe Copeldo. He and his son-in-law lives on goat ranch at or near Hastings. Reputed blackhander and bootlegger.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: Mar. 18, '19.	Incident Date: Mar. 15, '19.
Incident Reference: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO,			

At Pueblo.

Received telephonic communication from the Sheriff at WALSENBURG stating that he had discovered fifteen pounds of dynamite together with a large quantity of caps on the property of a known blackhand at PRYOR, COLORADO, a mining camp near WALSENBURG: he stated that he did not wish to go into details on the phone but believed that the circumstances in this matter merited an early investigation by the Department.

Agent having business in WALSENBURG, within the next few days, advised the Sheriff that he would call at that time.

March 24, 1919.

Make cards for each of these and give them all the same number, also let the captions for each read, In-re:- Blackhand activities in Colorado.

Frank Lopresto,	Walsenburg,	Col.
Charles Lopresto,	"	"
Sam Lopresto	"	"
Antonio Lopresto	"	"
Joe Bruno,	"	"
Riggio Joe,	"	"
Joe Palisano	"	"
Guiseppe Palisano	"	"
Mike Riggio	"	"
Tony Tesatori	"	"
Mosco Joe	"	"
Joe Fieccabieno	"	"
Gaetano Danna	"	"
Paulo Danna	"	"
Joe Columbo	"	"
Sam Fabrizio	"	"
John Mule	"	"
Charles Mule	"	"
Joe Companio	"	"
Mariano Barbarri	"	"
Augustino Palamanteri	"	"

April, 28 1919.

Anthony Caminetti, Esq.,
Commissioner General of Immigration,
Department of Labor.

Attention Mr. McClelland

Dear Sir:-

Please find enclosed herewith copy of a communication from the United States Attorney at Denver, Colorado. with reference to alleged black hand activities in southern Colorado.

You will note the suggestion embodied in the enclosed communication that your Bureau be requested to instruct Denver office to take a list of the names of the Italians suspected of being involved in these activities and by personal interviews with each obtain such data as is possible concerning their records in Italy, with the end in view of resorting possibly to denaturalization proceedings or deportation.

For your convenience and assistance in determining what action, if any, you deem fit to pursue in connection with this matter, I enclose herewith photostat copy of our find on the subject.

Very truly yours,

Acting Chief.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: Apr. 30, '19.	Incident Date: Apr. 28, '19.
Incident Reference: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Walsenburg, Colorado)			

At Pueblo and Walsenburg.

Received telephonic communication from Sheriff at Walsenburg to the effect that an Italian merchant received a blackhand letter demanding payment of two thousand dollars on the night of the 28th instant.

Sent the following telegram:-

Pueblo Colo April 28 1919

Samson
Federal Bldg
Denver Colo
Leaving for Walsenburg today at twelve fifteen
Craft

Left Pueblo at 12:15 arrived Walsenburg 3:15 P. M.

Interviewed Sheriff who states that JOE MATTIONI and his brother MARIO conduct a small store at Walsenburg, and that on the 23rd instant a letter was received by JOE MATTIONI through the Postoffice which letter is as follows:-

"Dear Friend Joe and Mario.
With this few words I let you know that I want you to bring \$2000 that we know that you can spare then, but do not let the law or any body know. Do as you please. If you want to live long and prosper in business that we bother for this time. Bring the money day 28 of this month, and take one saddle horse and take the way to Cucchiara, and listen that when you walk you will hear a shot and you drop the money and still go on until you arrive to the depot of Cucchiara, so start from town at 8:00 o'clock at night on the saddle horse and live the money in the sack."

Immediately after receiving this letter JOE MATTIONI conferred

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Walsenburg, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

April 28, '19 --- Cont'd

with MR. STANLEY of Guaranty State Bank, who is also acting Postmaster at Walsenburg and by MR. STANLEY the matter was referred to the Sheriff's office. MATTIONI agreed with the Sheriff that he would make the trip as outlined in this letter but later MATTIONI became alarmed and decided that he would not go out on the night of the 28th.

Talked with JOE MATTIONI in the office of MR. STANLEY at the bank and he states that he came to WALSENBURG from ILLINOIS about three years ago and that he and his brother have started a General Store there. That there is no one at Walsenburg was known to him in Illinois with the exception of CHARLES COLO: he says that CHARLES COLO has been a life-long friend of both himself and his brother: he says he does not know of any enemies that he has made at Walsenburg and has no idea as who the writer of the anonymous letter might be. He states that he has not talked of his own affairs with any one with the exception of MRS. JOE RIGGIO (a known blackhand) at Walsenburg. JOE RIGGIO is now charged with murder and his case will soon come up for trial in the State Court at Walsenburg. That MRS. RIGGIO, a few days ago, wanted to sell out the store conducted by herself and husband and offered the same to MATTIONI at the price of four thousand dollars. MATTIONI said he would not pay this amount and MRS. RIGGIO then asked how much MATTIONI could spare. MATTIONI then stated that he had two thousand dollars that he could use but this was not enough for the RIGGIOS. MATTIONI says that shortly after receiving this letter he went to JOE RIGGIO and asked him what he thought of such a

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.
(Walsenburg, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

April 28, '19 --- Cont'd

letter and what he (Riggio) would advise doing: that Riggio read the letter very carefully and said "That is not a regular blackhand letter. The blackhands only go after rich people. They would not bother you. This letter was written by sine bum." Joe MATTIONI states that he has come to the conclusion that he will take no further action in this matter until a further demand has been made on him. He says that it is customary among the blackhanders to give a second notice before any violence is done. On receipt of any further communications through the mail or otherwise in this respect MATTIONI will immediately get in touch with the Sheriff's office.

Mr. STANLEY states that he takes this matter rather seriously for the reason that he has reasons to believe that MATTIONI has been closely watched and was closely watched at the time he received the letter in question. He says that shortly after MATTIONI brought the letter to him at the bank he received a telephone call from some party unknown to MR. STANLEY but who gave the name of JOE LAUDRINO and that this party said that he was talking for MARIO MATTIONI and inquired whether or not JOE MATTIONI had left a letter with MR. STANLEY. Stanley says that he professed not to be able to understand the speaker and that this party then called another party to the phone who said that it was MARIO MATTIONI. Mr. Stanley says that he could not recognize the voice of either speaker but that they persistently inquired about the letter that JOE was supposed to have brought to him.

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Walsenburg, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

April 28, '19 --- Cont'd

LAUDRINO is a known friend of MARIO MATTIONI and conducts a pool hall and is apparently prosperous.

This letter which is submitted with this report to Special Agent in Charge for reference to the Postal Department is an especially well written letter for a blackhand notice. There are but one or two mis-spelled words in the entire letter. There are one or two peculiarities about the letter that indicate that it was written by an Italian, that is the expression "do not let the law or anybody know". That is an expression peculiar to the Italians and again the word "Cuchara". It is spelled after the Italian manner, "Cucchiara". This letter together with the envelope in which it was delivered to MATTIONI is inclosed with this report to Special Agent in Charge, Denver.

Case open.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
WASHINGTON

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

NO 54616/110

MAY 1, 1919.

W. E. Allen, Esq.,
Acting Chief, Bureau Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 28th ultime, inclosing photostat copy of your file with respect to alleged blackhand activities in Huerfano and Las Animas counties, Colorado, I desire to state that while the Bureau considers the matter one for the state and local authorities primarily to deal with, it has instructed its Denver office to confer with your agent in that city and assist in conducting whatever investigation may be proper under the circumstances, with a view to determining whether or not any of the persons involved are subject to the immigration laws and possibly brining to light the cases of others who may have secured citizenship by fraud.

Assistant Commissioner-General

JHC : LK

May 2, 1919.

Roy O. Samson, Esq.
Box 1491,
Denver, Colo,

Dear Sir:

In re: Blackhand Activities in Southern
Colorado

Referring to previous correspondences in this matter, you are advised that copies of your reports have been furnished to the Commissioner General Immigration at Washington, who advises us that he has instructed the Denver office of the Bureau of Immigration to confer with you and assist in conducting whatever investigations may be proper under the circumstances with a view to determining whether or not any of the persons involved are subject to the immigration laws and possibly bringing to light the cases of others who may have secured their citizenship by fraud.

You will please confer with the Immigration Inspector in Charge at Denver and cooperate with him along the lines suggested by the Commissioner General of Immigration.

Yours very truly,

Acting Chief

Reporting Officer: R. O. SAMSON	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: May 6, 1919	Incident Date: 5/5/1919
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION <u>IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO</u>			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

AT DENVER:

Complying with letter of Chief of Bureau of May 2nd., J.H.C., agent has been in conference with the agent in charge of the Bureau of Immigration, but no definite plan has been formulated for a joint investigation of the above entitled matter.

In view of Special Agent Craft's familiarity with the southern territory and his acquaintance with some of the Italians in that section of the country, I will probably detail him to assist the Immigration Officers.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: May 17, 1919.	Incident Date: May 15, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION Blackhand Activities in Southern Colorado. (Aguilar, Colorado)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Trinidad and Aguilar.

While at Trinidad received information that the members of the Blackhand organization at Aguilar had made verbal demands on MRS. ANTONIO LOPRESTO for two thousand dollars and attempted to forcibly take this money. Was further advised that two of the members of the organization who participated in this demand were known at Aguilar.

Together with Undersheriff Dunlavy drove from Trinidad to Aguilar and there interview MRS. ANTONIO LOPRESTO. In this connection it will be remembered that ANTONIO LOPRESTO incurred the enmity of the blackhand organization by his refusal to use his influence with his brother CHARLES LOPRESTO to have a case, then pending against members of the blackhand organization charged with the attempt to murder CHARLES LOPRESTO, dropped. This is shown in report of this office dated AUGUST 29, 1918 and entitled GAETANO DANNA ET AL'. ANTONIO LOPRESTO was then attacked by PISTONI, at Aguilar, one of the leaders of the blackhanders and in this fight PISTONI was killed by ANTONIO LOPRESTO. Lopresto was a peculiarly fearless man, ready and willing to tell the Court and officers what he knew about this organization and its personal and this fact was well known to the blackhanders. Tony Lopresto was arrested on a warrant charging him with the murder of Pistoni. Public sentiment and the sympathy of the Court and the officers of Las Animas County was with Lopresto in this matter and it is

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Aguilar, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

MAY 15, 1919-Cont'd

doubtful if Lopresto would have been found guilty. Lopresto has signified his willingness to the court and the officers to tell all that he knew concerning the activities of this organization and at a later date he made a trip to Pueblo for the purpose of visiting his Attorney and on this trip he suddenly disappeared and has not been heard from since. Inasmuch as Lopresto knew that he had but little to fear in the of this matter the theory that he has been done away with by the blackhanders is well taken. Mrs. Lopresto has recently stated that she could and would give information concerning the members of the blackhand organization.

Mrs. Lopresto now states that on Monday the 5th instant at about 10 or 11 P.M., and as she was about to retire, several men entered her house and one of them entered by way of the window at the second story: that two of these men made an attack on her and one cut her purse with a knife and took twenty five dollars in cash and the other choked her and tried to force her to tell where she had the two thousand dollars hidden, that the assailant knew that she had. That during the scuffle Night Marshal RIVOLI and some others appeared on the scene and the assailants made their escape: she says that their names are PAULO DANNA and a man called FISH because he is sometimes engaged in the fish business. She says that she does not know the reason for this attack but was convinced that robbery was not the only motive: that had she given them the money and had the officers not appeared when they did she is fully convinced that she would have paid the same penalty as her husband.

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Aguilar, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

MAY 15, 1919-Cont'd

paid. It is impossible to get a coherent story from Mrs. Lopresto for the reason that she was hysterical and it is questionable if she knows and could tell just what took place that night. The story that she gave was given in a rambling sort of manner. She bemoans the fate of her husband Antonio and between answers to questions in this particular case she continually sobbed "Pobre Antonio". Mrs. Lopresto is now thoroughly frightened and is in constant fear of her life, she scarcely dares to sleep at night.

Talked with the officers and others taking a part in this affair at Aguilar and find that their stories differ as to what actually occurred. Night Marshall RIVOLI, a Mexican, states that on the night of the 5th instant at about 10:30 P. M. he noticed a crowd of seven men in an arroya about two hundred yards from the Lopresto place singing Italian songs and evidently bent on a good time. He was able to recognize two members of this crowd, FISH and PAULO DANNA. He said that he recognized the third, a carpenter named TORINO but that TORINO was simply with this crowd but is not a member nor affiliated with the blackhand organization or their activities: that he works for his money and is considered a very respectable man there. This same opinion is shared by Day Marshal Mott and the merchants of Aguilar. He says that he became suspicious that these men were bent on some mischief and later was attracted by the noises at the Lopresto establishment: that he forced his way into this house and as he entered he saw the room in disorder and Mrs. Lopresto hysterical and bunches of false hair was scattered over the floor. He said that her throat plainly showed that she had been choked.

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Aguilar, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

MAY 15, 1919-Cont'd

He said that he attempted to go into another room to telephone to Trinidad for assistance but the door was barred by some party on the inside who asked what he wanted and RIVOLI replied that he wanted to use the phone and this man said "You cannot use the phone." Rivoli succeeded in opening the door wide enough to see the occupant and recognized FISH. He says that he was about to make a further attempt to get into the room when PAULO DANNA took hold of his coat collar and pulled him away from the door and said "What is the trouble here? Don't kill anybody." Rivoli says that he then went out for assistance and when he returned DANNA had departed and Fish had escaped from the upper windows of the building. He says that this is practically all that he knows about the case. He says that there were several other men in one of the other rooms in the building at this time but he recognized but three of the men, PAULO DANNA, FISH and TORINO. He said that TORINO took no part whatever in the melee.

Talked with HENRY PILATE, merchant of Aguilar, who has taken an open and notorious stand against these people. He, for years, has had to go armed constantly and his home is carefully guarded. He says that on the night of the 5th instant he attended a lodge meeting and about 10:30 he was on his way home and passed the Lopresto place: that he heard scuffling and heard a man's voice say " I know you got two thousand dollars. Now you show me where it is." He said that he recognized this man as PAOLO DANNA. He said that he immediately went those to get his gun and return and on his way

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Aguilar, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

MAY 15, 1919-Cont'd

to the Lopresto house the second time he found MOTT and RIVOLI that those men, as they proceeded to the Lopresto place, saw FISH who was carrying what they took to be a rifle. PILATI would not say positively that it was a rifle but he is morally certain that it was. Mott and Rivoli were positive in their statement that this was a rifle. He says that the men made a search for FISH but that was the last they saw of him. When they reached the Lopresto residence PILATE was able to see through the window, where the curtain had not been pulled entirely down, and there saw PAULO DANNA struggling with MRS. LOPRESTO: that he drew his gun with the intention of shooting in the window but he was restrained by RIVOLI: that when he got inside the building no one was present except Mrs. Lopresto. Mrs. Lopresto told them that both FISH and PAULO DANNA had attacked her. She made the same statement to agent. Pilate says that he only saw DANNA during the struggle. PILATE then amended his first statement slightly by saying that when he first heard these noises, that instead of going directly to his home for his gun he did go into the building but when he got in there the uproar had ceased and FISH was sitting on a bed in a room opening off of the kitchen and although Mrs. Lopresto seemed to be nervous, there was, at that time, no visible signs of struggle having taken place. Pilate said, however, that he knew from the attitude of the people, at this time, that trouble was brewing and for that reason went to his home and armed himself thoroughly. MOTT states that he saw FISH at one time during this trouble in a struggle with

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(Aguilar, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft

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Mrs. Lopresto. When he saw Fish with Mrs. Lopresto, PAULO DANNA was not there but PAULO DANNA had been there and was there at the later time when all the officers returned together but DANNA immediately left the building on approach of the officers. Mott, as well as the other witnesses interviewed, says that FISH has been a member of this organization for years: that he does but very little work and that a warrant has been issued for his arrest charging him with Grand Larceny. This warrant never being served. Agent ascertained that the correct name of FISH is ANGELO CACCATORI: that CACCATORI has been hiding since the issuances of this warrant, some nine months ago, on the SYLVESTRE INGA ranch some ten miles from AGUILAR and has only recently reappeared at AGUILAR. Agent ascertained that there is a charge pending against CACCATORI charging him with Grand Larceny in the State Courts of Las Animas County. Paulo Danna was at Aguilar on this day and the Sheriff had in his possession a capias for Danna in the case in which Danna is charged with transporting liquor from one point to another in Colorado and having liquor in his possession for other than medicinal purposes. Under these circumstances the Sheriff deemed it advisable to take DANNA to Trinidad by virtue of this capias and it is thoroughly understood by Danna that that is why he is being detained at this time. FISH was not to be found around Aguilar and Agent was later advised that he had returned to the INGA ranch and was then hiding there. After Danna was placed under arrest by the Sheriff for violation of the liquor laws he got in communication with his sister MRS. PISTONI, by phone, and the

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Aguilar, Colorado)

R. Lee Craft
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conversation had between the two was in Italian. Shortly thereafter Mrs. Pistoni called SAM PARLAPLANO, Attorney of Pueblo, by phone and that conversation was had in Italian. Danna was taken to Trinidad and is now confined in the County Jail on the charge of violating the State Laws. It is very likely that Danna will be able to furnish bonds. Agent asked the Sheriff to delay the granting of bonds pending receipt of this report by Special Agent in Charge, Denver. Danna is already under indictment in the Federal Court for having violated the Reed Amendment and Section 240 C. C. together with his brother GAETANO DANNA and JOE COLUMBO. Agent was advised that ~~CACCATORI~~ COLUMBO has left the country AND intends to forfeit his bond given to the United States Commissioner.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: May 19, '19.	Incident Date: May 15, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Henry Pilate)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Aguilar.

While at Aguilar this day HENRY PILATE submitted to Agent a blackhand letter which he states was received by him in December 1918. It is written very poorly in Italian language and makes a demand for money and threatens to exterminate Pilate's entire family. On this appears the skull and cross-bones and coffin with a very poor drawing of a human being in this coffin with the information that this is the final notice. PILATE paid no attention, however, to this letter.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: May 19, '19.	Incident Date: May 15, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Mrs. Antonio Lopresto)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Aguilar.

While in conversation with Mrs. Lopresto she told that she had received a letter from a man at KOEHLER, NEW MEXICO in which the writer told her that if she wanted to know where TONY was and whether he was alive or dead to come secretly to KOEHLER and to come to House #66: That she did go to KOEHLER and was informed by the writer PELLOGRINO FOSORINO that he had been informed that TONY Lopresto had gone to PUEBLO for the purpose of consulting with his attorney and after this consultation with his attorney, Tony ate a lunch and that he then was met by two men who induced him to get into an automobile and these men then took him on the road between Pueblo and Walsenburg and after killing Lopresto changed his clothes and buried him somewhere on the road between Pueblo and Walsenburg. He cautioned Mrs. Lopresto never to say anything about this or mention his name in the matter because it would mean death to him but that his only purpose in telling her this story was to relieve her of the suspense and that she could believe that Antonio Lopresto was killed and buried. The letters written by FOSORINO are now in the possession of Agent and will be kept here pending further investigation of this matter.

JOE MACHETTA accompanied Mrs. Lopresto in an auto to KOEHLER and has verifies the story told by Mrs. Lopresto as to what took place and what was told Mrs. Lopresto by FOSORINO.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: May 19, '19.	Incident Date: May 15, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Joe Machetta)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Aguilar,

While at Aguilar, on other business, Agent was advised this day by JOE MACHETTA, a merchant, that he had received a blackhand letter which was mailed from Trinidad Colorado on May 9th at 11 A. M. This letter is printed in the Italian language and the workmanship is first class. This letter is said to be written by some educated Italian who has made an attempt to disguise his education. The letter is as follows:-

Trinidad Colo 13-5-19

Care Amico

Badate che noi siamo la mandnera e quinti vogliamo da voi la somma di \$3000 perche sul momento sia-mo bisognosi.

Dunque ora vi raccomandamo di non fare tanti chiacchieri con la polizia. Perche a noi poco ne intereana portare vicino dello store di roma ed avate otto giorni di tempe paessati otto giorni di tempo e voi non andate la' a portare questa moneta a voi vi facciamo pezzi pezzi lostesso di quande voi vosta famiglia e parentate tutto. E ve lo digianmo con lo sangue all' occhi che siamo abile a farlo. Quinti per conchiudere come andate al detto pesto si presenta una persona e vi dice datemi il gallo aller si darete la moneta. Vi salutiamo e se non adempite al nostro desideri andate la' all'. Gice dopo merranotte"

There is no signature to this letter but there are two crossed daggers and a drawing supposed to be that of a hand at the bottom. The translation, as nearly as can be had, of this letter is:-

BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO
(Joe Machetti)

R. Lee Craft

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"Dear Friend: Be advised that we are of the blackhand and count on it that we wish the sum of \$3000 because at this moment we are very needy. Hence we suggest that you dont have much to do with the police because they interest us very little. We have absolutely no fear of them. You must take this mentioned money near the Rome Store" (The Rome store is the 29th of July saloon and about four or five miles west of Aguilar.) "You have eight days time. After eight days time if you have not delivered this money over to us we will get dollar for dollar, the same as you cut the meat slice by slice. Then we will do away with all your family and relatives. We say this with blood in our eye and we are able to do it. But watch how you go to the said spot. A person will present himself and say "Give me the rooster and to him deliver the money. We salute you and if you dont do as we wish these weapons will be your fate. You will present yourself at one oclock in the morning."

The original if this letter shows very plainly that it had been originally written at Aguilar and that the name Aguilar had been erased and Trinidad substituted. The envelope containing this letter is postmarked at Trinidad and the stamp canceled May 9th. This letter is being retained by Agent for further use in this matter.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: May 19, '19.	Incident Date: May 15, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Trinidad,

On return to Trinidad from Aguilar Agent was advised by PILATE of Aguilar, by phone, that CACCATORI alias FISH was now hiding at SYLVESTRE INGA ranch. Later received another telephone message from PILATE stating that he had been informed by a women, who overheard a telephone conversation between Mrs. Pistoni of Aguilar and Prichoneti Mariana of Walsenburg, that Mrs. Pistoni informed Mariana that " a brother is sick" and assistance was needed at once and that Mrs. Pistoni was assured Mariana that some action would be taken the following day.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: May 19, '19.	Incident Date: May 16, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Henry Pilate)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Trinidad.

Agent received a telephone communication from PILATE of Aguilar in which PILATE stated that JOE RIGGIO, now charged with murder and who was tried a few days ago at Walsenburg, which trial resulted in a "hung jury" and the case has been set for re-hearing on June 3rd, had left Walsenburg and had hired a team that morning from some Italians near Aguilar for the purpose of driving to the Sylvestre Inca ranch: That another blackhander named Pisconetti had already gone to the Inca ranch and that it was understood that there was to be a general meeting that day of blackhanders at the Sylvestre Inca ranch on the Apishapa.

Called Sheriff Neelley at Walsenburg and verified the fact that Riggio had left there. The Sheriff at Walsenburg and Sheriff at Trinidad together with District Attorney HAWLEY held consultation and it was decided by them that a visit should be made to the Inca ranch and appropriate action taken. Agent did not deem it advisable to take any official action in this matter other than to accompany Sheriffs to this meeting for the purpose of gaining such information concerning the personnel and the activities of the blackhand organization as was available.

Left Trinidad at 12:30 P.M. by auto for the Inca ranch. There were several men present on this ranch but they were said to be employed by Sylvestre Inca. None of the known blackhanders mentioned in previous report, in this matter, were present. Inca states

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that he is an American citizen and showed his final papers which were issued out of the County Court of Pueblo County in 1904. Inca, when questioned by the Sheriffs as to whether or not there had been any visitors to the ranch that day, stated that he had seen no one: that there was no one there to his knowledge. As this ranch comprises sixteen hundred acres and there was every opportunity for a secret meeting there, it was not considered practicable to make a thorough search although a superficial search was made by the officers present. Nothing of any importance was found.

Returned to Trinidad by auto.

Left Trinidad at 10:30 P.M. Arrived Pueblo 2:15 A.M. of the 17th.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: June 4, '19.	Incident Date: June 3, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Walsenburg, Colorado)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Pueblo and Walsenburg.

by the Sheriff at Walsenburg

Agent was advised that JOE RIGGIO, Blackhander of Walsenburg, would be on trial for the murder on Tuesday the 3rd inst. and requested the presence of Agent because at the former hearing in this matter known blackhanders from Pueblo, Las Animas and Huerfano Counties were present and from the actions of the members of this organization at Walsenburg for the past thirty days the Sheriff believes that there would be some developments of interest both to the Government and to the State.

Pursuant to this request Agent left Pueblo at 4:50 P. M.

Arrived Walsenburg 8:40 P. M.

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: June 4, '19.	Incident Date: June 3, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO (Walsenburg, Colorado)			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Walsenburg.

JOE RIGGIO was placed on trial this day on the charge of having murdered SIMON NARA in WALSENBURG on February 4, 1918. This is the second trial on this matter, the first trial having resulted in a "hung jury" thirty days ago, the jurors disagreeing on the degree of murder.

Nothing unusual transpired at this hearing beyond the fact that there were numerous members of this organization present from the Counties of LAS ANIMAS and HUERFANO. There were no PUEBLO blackhanders present. JOE PALASANO, one of the leaders of the blackhanders at WALSENBURG, was an interested spectator and especially interested in the testimony given by the officers of WALSENBURG. MARIANO BARBERA of LAS ANIMAS COUNTY was present although he has no direct connection with this case. J. VALLENTI was also recognized among the crowd. J. VALENTI is a prominent blackhander of LAS ANIMAS COUNTY.

Careful watch was kept on the known members of the organization and no suspicious moves were made.

July 29, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FISCHER.

I attach hereto a letter from the United States Attorney at Denver, Colorado, referring to black-hand activities in that state. I have been holding a letter for some time endeavoring to locate the file and have just recently located the same. I note that correspondence has been carried on by Mr. Porter with the United States Attorney and I am therefore forwarding this matter to you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Reporting Officer: R. Lee Craft	Location: Pueblo, Colo.	Report Date: Nov. 22, 1919.	Incident Date: Nov. 18, '19.
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

At Pueblo.

Agent received telephonic communication from Sheriff at TRINIDAD, this date, stating that he had under arrest five blackhanders whom it was believed were implicated in the killing of ANTONIO LOPRESTO of AGUILAR. MR. DUNLAVY asked that a representative of this Bureau come to TRINIDAD for the purpose of an investigation.

Inasmuch as Agent had been advised that Special Agent MELROSE was in the TRINIDAD District, Agent called the United States Attorney, by phone, and suggested that Agent MELROSE handle the above matter.

Reporting Officer: JAMES W. MELROSE	Location: DENVER, COLO.	Report Date: Nov. 28, 1919	Incident Date: 11/19-20-21
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION IN RE: BLACKHAND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN COLORADO:			

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, CASES AND ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED/ETC.

AT TRINIDAD:

On arriving in Trinidad on the Morning of November 19th agent called at the office of the county sheriff as per instructions by telephone from U. S. Attorney Tedrow and there was informed that they had at the noon hour on the 18th inst., in the town of Aguilar arrested the following named persons: Silvestre Inga, Pietro Carollo, Tomas Macheca, Joe Canala and Marice Giacamo on a complaint made by telephone by Mrs. Rosa Lapresto of Aguilar about 11 P.M. on the night of the 17th, at which time she stated in her broken English, in a conversation with Undersheriff Dunlevy, that there was lots of trouble; that a number of blackhanders had been in and demanded \$1000. of her and that they were going to kill her. She was assured by Undersheriff Dunlevy that officers would be over the following day to investigate the matter. Mr. Dunlevy stated that on arriving at Aguilar about noon hour, he called on Mrs. Rosie Lapresto and she stated these parties were across the street in a store owned by Mrs. Pestonni. The officers had already made arrests of some bootleggers at the railroad station of Lynn and did not take the time to interview Mrs. Lapresto regarding what had actually transpired the night before, but went across the street to Mrs. Pestonni's and proceeded to a room in the rear of the store and found the above named parties drinking some kind of wine. He immediately placed them under arrest and upon searching them found four of the men were armed. They were brought to Trinidad and placed in jail after which Dunlevy got into telephone communication with Special Agent Craft of this Bureau at Pueblo and notified him of the arrest. He communicated

with Mr. Craft on account of his having previously handled investigations in regard to Blackhand Activities in that locality. Agent, owing to other investigations during the day did not make an effort to interview these parties.

On the morning of the 20th, agent had a brief consultation with sheriff Dunlevy and then proceeded to question those parties. I had been informed that Marice Giacamo was a young man possibly not over 22 to 23 years of age and apparently a stranger to the officers of that county and that it was possible that more information could be secured from him than any of the others under arrest. This party was brought out into the sheriff's office and being able to talk English very well, I proceeded with my interview. He stated that his name was Marice Giacamo; that his home was in Prizzi, Italy; that he is either 23 or 24 years of age; came to America in October, 1912; landed in New York, sailing from Palermo, Italy. Cannot recall name of ship. After arriving in New York, remained there about three and a half or four years. Lived at First Avenue and 62nd street where he was employed in a livery stable on 76th street near First Avenue. The name of his employer was Filippo Pieatagg. On leaving New York he came out to Walsenburg in the month of June, 1918. States as his reason for coming to Walsenburg that he had cousins there with whom he was corresponding, named Guiseppi and Joe Palisano, brothers. Joe Palisano conducted a shoestore in Walsenburg. On Marice's arrival at Walsenburg he went to work at the Ravenwood coal mine for the Victor-American Fuel Co., and made his home with his cousin, Joe Palisano, Later he worked for a groceryman in Walsenburg named Tony Tesatori, for about six months, at which time Tony Tessitori began peddling together. Tony is now on a ranch and Marice has been peddling alone for some time. States that is first time he has ever been arrested since his arrival in America.

Last Saturday, the 15th, being payday he started out on Sunday to make collections of bills owing him in and around the coal camps between Aguilar and Walsenburg. States that he went Sunday afternoon to Ludlow, came back that night to the ranch of Joe Canala and he went to Aguilar in a wagon. Canala went in to buy some goods. Remained in Aguilar that night and had a room with Canala at the rooming house run by a Frenchman named Jules Bonal. Claims he did not meet any of the men with whom he was arrested after arriving in Aguilar until late in the evening at which time they took supper together at one of their houses. When questioned if he had been in to the Lapresto Hotel during Monday evening with other members of the party with whom he was arrested, he stated that he positively was not in the Lapresto house that evening; that he went to bed about 9:30 o'clock and got up the following morning at the same time Canala did and they had a light breakfast together and was around town during the forenoon collecting some bills which were due him and had just met these parties and gone into the Pestonni store shortly before they were arrested. He was further questioned as to his having any knowledge about the Blackhand activities in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties since his arrival from New York. He stated he had always been a working man and was in no way connected with any secret organization and did not know anything regarding this matter.

Agent next called for Joe Canala who stated his age was 39; that he came to America on Sept. 15, 1911; arrived at Trinidad on Sept. 20th. Came on ship St. George and landed in New York. Had a brother-in-law in Trinidad whom he came to see, named Nicola Tessitori and he has lived in Las Animas County ever since. Is engaged in raising goats on a ranch near Hastings. Is not a citizen of the United States and has never taken out any papers. When

Questioned why he had not applied for citizenship he said it was on account of not being able to talk English. Agent will state here that in my interview with him I secured the assistance of the District Court Clerk as interpreter who assisted me in, and was familiar with other Blackhand investigations in that section of the country. In questioning Canala he denied knowing Marice Giacamo, stating that how he came to see him in Aguilar was on account of a settlement he had with him for cheese, stating that he wanted to buy what cheese he had on hand and contract for what he made next summer. Denied that Giacamo had staid at his house on Sunday night; denied they came to Aguilar together; denied that he was in Aguilar on Sunday or Monday night, claiming he arrived on Tuesday morning about an hour or an hour and a half before he was arrested. Claims that after seeing Giacamo on Tuesday morning in Aguilar, Giacamo paid him \$125. in bills for cheese which he had sold to him. At this time I told Canala he had not told me the truth, that he was lying to me and I would now give him an opportunity before I sent him back to jail to tell me the truth; that I knew all he had done as his movements had been covered since last Sunday, and assuming the story told to me by Giacamo to be the truth, I questioned Canala as to each movement after Giacamo had arrived at his home on Sunday and finally after diligent effort got him to admit the entire truth on Monday night at the rooming house run by Jules Bonal which they occupied together; that they breakfasted together the following morning and were together most of the time during the forenoon up to the time they were arrested in the store owned by Mrs. Pestonni. He denied the ownership of the pistol which he had on him at the time of his arrest. Denied that he was in the hotel conducted by Mrs. Rosa Lapresto on Monday night; denied having had any conversation with Mrs. Lapresto on any matter. Agent concluded it was

useless to question this man any further at this time, so ordered him back to jail.

Silvestro Inga was next man interviewed and he stated he was 49 years of age; lives on his ranch near Aguilar; that he is a citizen of the United States, having taken out his final papers in 1903 in Pueblo County; states that on Monday, November 17th he was not in Aguilar; that he completed his threshing of grain at his house on that date and was busily engaged at work during the entire day and could prove this by several ~~of his~~ witnesses and his family who were working with him. Does admit that on Tuesday, Nov. 18th he came to town with his son on an automobile trip (buick??), arriving there about 11 A.M., the he first went to the barber shop in Aguilar and got shaved. (This is a Greek's barber shop;) that he then went out where his car was as he had a puncture, and arranged to have the puncture repaired; that he and his son then went to buy a pair of shoes at Jesse Abeyta's store; that from there he went to another store where he bought some shoes for his girls and a coat for one of the girls. That there was a young man in town who had worked for him and had arranged to meet him at the bank and he was to pay him off, but the young man said he preferred that the money be paid to his sister, Mrs. Grenna Spanolla; that while in the store talking to her, he met these men with whom he was arrested. It appeared that when he entered the store they were in a back room drinking and on hearing his voice, they stepped to the door and invited him back where they were drinking some wine and he states that he had just taken a drink with them when the officers came in and arrested him; that he had no business transactions either on Monday or Tuesday with the man Pietro Carollo, but had had dealings with him within the last two months as he had sold him considerable cheese. Pietro Carollo is a cheese buyer from Pittsburgh, Pa. Did not receive any money from him.

Gaetano (Thomas) Macheca was the next man interviewed. He states he is 34 years of age and lives at Aguilar and is engaged in buying and selling cheese; that he is not a citizen of the United States and has not applied for his papers. Came to America six years ago; arrived at Brooklyn, N.Y., don't know the name of the ship upon which he came. Came from Iopello, Italy in the state of Girgente. States that he was in Aguilar all day Monday, November 17th; that during most of the day he was with Pietro Carollo; that he had a settlement with Carollo for cheese which he had sold him within the last month and received from Carollo a check for \$4000. He also claims that he had another transaction with Carollo on that date in which he disposed of 200 pounds of cheese and assisted Carollo in expressing and shipping same to some customer of his at some point in the state of Massachusetts. This story was corroborated by one of the deputy sheriffs who made the arrest to the extent that an express bill of the above transaction was found in Pietro Carollo's effects at the time he was arrested.

Macheca states he met Joe Canala on that date as he had come in from his ranch and had some money for him from his partner Francisco Saiaca states he had sold some olive oil to this man Saiaca and Joe Canala brought in the money to pay him. That when he met Canala he was accompanied by Marice Giacamo; that he recalls having seen Marice Giacamo on one previous occasion, but has no acquaintance whatever with him; that he invited the three men, Canala, Carollo and Giacamo to his house for supper, arriving there about six o'clock and remained there until 7; that the four of them then went down to Jules Bonal's rooming house to secure a room for Canala and Giacamo; that they did secure a room and he and Pietro Carollo left Canala and Giacamo at the rooming house. That he and Carallo then proceeded down

the street to another rooming house where they secured a room for Pietro Carollo; that he stopped there awhile with Pietro and returned home alone, arriving there about 9 P.M., that at no time during this day was he in the hotel owned by Mrs. Lapresto; that he is well acquainted with Mrs. Lapresto and goes in there considerably to visit with her, but on this occasion he denies having been there and knows nothing about any of the parties mentioned having been there on that day or evening.

Pietro Carollo was next interviewed. He states he is 42 years of age; that his home is in Pittsburgh, Pa., and that he is one of seven members of a firm known as Pittsburgh Fruit Exchange Co., that he is not a citizen of the United States and has not applied for his papers; that he has been in United States thirteen years and cannot give the name of the ship he came on, but landed in New York; claims he has been in Colorado about two months and his time has been spent between Pueblo and Aguilar and Trinidad. That he has been engaged in purchasing a carload of cheese; that he had secured one carload which he shipped during the month of October from Aguilar to his company at Pittsburgh. When he came to Pueblo he brought with him 1000 gallons of olive oil which he has been disposing of in this part of the country. His headquarters while he is at Pueblo is at the store of Tony Violla, a groceryman at 900 Elm street where he shipped this 1000 gallons of olive oil, consigned to Violla's care. He came to Aguilar last Saturday evening from Pueblo; was there all day Sunday and Monday. On that date he bought 200. pounds of cheese. He also bought cheese from Silvestro Inga and Joe Garbo. His purpose in going to Aguilar on this date was to settle up with these several parties from whom he bought cheese and paid out by checks about \$4000. on Monday. Before he came to Aguilar he had been recommended to buy cheese from Tomas Cacheca and he had con-

siderable dealings with him and it was to him he paid the \$4000. in checks on Monday; also he bought an additional 200 pounds on that date from Macheca which he expressed to a customer at some point in Massachusetts and Macheca assisted him in boxing and shipping this cheese. In fact he claimed he was with Macheca most all day Monday and took supper at his house that evening and that Macheca accompanied him to a rooming house where he got a room for the night and separated from Macheca. He admits he was around considerably with Joe Canala Monday in Aguilar. He met him in the forenoon about 10 o'clock when he came to see Macheca. States the last he saw of him that evening was about 8 o'clock. Carollo states he had no former acquaintance with any of these parties before arriving at Aguilar on this trip; that he did not know the man Tony Violla at Pueblo, but his firm had transacted business with him through the mails and his name was listed in a book they had among several other Italian dealers engaged in the store business in different parts of the United States; that he had never seen Canala or Marice Giacamo until he arrived in Aguilar on Monday the 17th. Admits that he was in the store owned by Mrs. Pestonni at the time of the arrest; that he had been invited in there by these gentlemen to have a drink of wine. That he recalls while the four of them were in there drinking, some one stepped to the door and called Silvestro Inga back to join them and this happened just a few minutes before they were all arrested by the sheriff and his deputies. He states that is the only time he had seen Inga in Aguilar on this trip. Agent questioned him regarding any knowledge he might have about a Blackhand Organization in Pueblo, Aguilar and Trinidad and Walsenburg. He stated he had no knowledge on any such organization and had not talked with anybody about such an organization. When I questioned him particularly on this matter he seemed to get very

much excited and seemed scared. He said that if there was such an organization no doubt they would try to make him one of their victims as he had come to this section of the country from Pittsburgh with \$12000. and he had shipped several thousand dollars worth of cheese and had considerable transactions with the Italians in this section of the country, having disposed a great amount of olive oil which he had shipped here from Pennsylvania.

During this interview Undersheriff Dunlevy was present and after we had conferred together upon completion of the interview, we concluded this man Pietro Canala was in no way implicated in the Blackhand Activities in that section of the country and deemed it advisable to release him which we did. He stated he would be very glad to furnish us any information he could find out and gave as his address 2315 Pennsylvania Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Agent completed making a trip to Aguilar for the purpose of interviewing Mrs. Rosa Lapresto and obtain from her a statement as to the exact words used by the parties who threatened him on Monday night and whom she complained to the sheriff's office. At the suggestion of Undersheriff Dunlevy it was arranged by telephone that the night marshal, Mr. Payne of Aguilar, should interview Mrs. Lapresto as he is quite familiar with her and it was presumed he could secure as much information from her as any one could. He was instructed to have this interview but was called out of town and was absent during the entire day of the 21st, but late that evening I communicated with him and he furnished me the following information from long distance telephone; "That Pietro and Angelo Kristoff, Bulgarians, and Charlie Jones, a brother of Homer Jones, were all present at Mrs. Rosa Lapresto's place about 9 P.M. November 17th when two Italians came in to her place and began telling her about her husband, Tony Lapresto, how he had been killed

in Pueblo saying that he was induced to go to Tony Violla's house in Pueblo to drink with them and that he was made drunk and they cut his arms and legs off while he was yet alive and then stuck knives into him until he was dead; that he was buried in a cellar under a house in Pueblo; that if Mrs. Lapresto would give them \$1000. they would tell her who the parties were that did the killing; if not they would kill her. She claims there were just two men that did the talking to her; one was a tall young skinny Italian and the other was a big fat Italian; that she did not recall ever having seen these men before. She claimed Joe Canala was the man who brought these men to her place, but that he was not present when this talk was made. Charlie Jones head this talk and noted the parties were excited and also noted that these Italians had guns on them and kept their hands on the guns all the time they were talking. The Kristoffs understand some Italian and claim to know what was being said and that Mrs. Lapresto's story is correct.

When agent first was informed of the matter upon his arrival in Trinidad, it occurred to him it was a case in which the Immigration office would be interested and I suggested to Undersheriff Dunlevy that he communicate with the office of U. S. Immigration Inspector at Denver and have them inform him where we could communicate with William Mansfield, Inspector in Charge, whom I knew to have left Denver in charge of a number of aliens to be deported into old Mexico. In telephone communication between the sheriff's office and the Immigration office at Denver, the undersheriff requested that if the office could locate Mansfield by telegraph to advise him to stop off at Trinidad enroute from El Paso, Texas to Denver to confer with Special Agent Melrose in re investigation of Blackhand activities, certain parties being now under arrest. As the result of this arrangement, Mr. Mansfield

arrived in Trinidad on the Santa Fe Train at 8 P.M. Nov. 21st. and was in consultation with agent at the sheriff's office until 11:45 P.M. during which time the entire matter covered in this report was gone over with Mr. Mansfield and the deputy sheriffs who had made the arrests. Inasmuch as the local officers intend to prosecute these parties for having in their possession weapons in violation of State laws, it was concluded to await further developments in the case and possibly investigate further the parties under arrest. Agent will her state that the description furnished by Mrs. Lapresto of the two men who made the threat to her corresponds to that of Marice Giacomo as the tall, skinny young Italian and to Pietro Carollo, the Pittsburgh merchant, who is here purchasing cheese for his company, as the fat man. It developed in the conversation this evening with the marshal of Aguilar by long distance telephone that Mrs. Lapresto intended to visit Trinidad during Saturday the 22nd. It was arranged that she should be thoroughly interviewed by the sheriff's office with an interpreter and that a transcript of her statement be furnished this office.

Agent left Trinidad at 11:40 P.M. in company with Immigration Inspector Mansfield for Denver, Colorado, arriving in Denver at 7:30 A.M. November 22nd.