

October 25, 1937

- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hottel
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. McIntire
- Mr. Naughten
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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Dear Sir:

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Mrs.
Alice McDonnell Parsons,
Victim; KIDNAPING.

Reference is made to the most recent report in this case by Special Agent J. A. Murphy, New York City, dated October 15, 1937 which includes the logs of conversations between Anna Parsons and William H. Parsons, Jr. up until the time that Parsons hastily left for California.

It is noted from these conversations that both have been in a very depressed frame of mind and much of their conversation indicates a very definite guilty conscience as to both. Notwithstanding this agitated frame of mind and apparently what appears to be a frustration of their efforts Anna Parsons does not seem inclined to disclose the location of the body of Alice Parsons. Suitable efforts as in the past I believe, particularly when Parsons returns to New York City and which I expect will be at an early date, will undoubtedly lead to some rash action on the part of either or both in order to bring this matter to a conclusion. Both seemed determined that they will be together. Their intimate relationship has been shown in the recent logs submitted.

It is believed that we have sufficient to make a fairly substantial case as against both if the body of Alice Parsons is found. It is believed that material admissions will be obtained from William H. Parsons, Jr. when this occurs. The substantial possibilities in this case rest entirely upon the finding of the body of Alice Parsons. The many leads as to the case apparently present little in the way of a possible solution of same unless the place where the body was disposed of is located.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 27 1937 P. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Prior to leaving New York City, with this idea in mind I instructed the Agents who were to make an investigation as to the location of the body as to the manner of the search desired, and the thoroughness necessary as to this. The investigation to date in this case indicates that the longest period of time Anna Parsons could have been away from the Parsons home on June 9, 1937 after 8 A.M. would be the period between approximately 9.15 A.M. and 11.15 A.M. It has been rather definitely established that Anna can drive an automobile. The value of this latter information is believed considerable by reason of the fact that Anna and William Parsons both have at all times tried to discourage the idea that Anna could drive an automobile, which idea they both persisted in since the date of the crime, June 9, 1937. It is reasonable to believe that Anna Parsons undoubtedly drove with the body, if this means of disposing of same was used, not more than one hour's distance from the house at the time she disposed of it; that this travel was probably to the south or southeast, a territory with which she is thoroughly familiar.

The investigation to be made was a careful check of the roads leading from the Parsons home, particularly south and southeast for a distance as could have been reasonably covered by Anna Parsons on the day in question. A careful plan was worked out whereby they would check these roads and all roads leading off from such principal roads for a substantial distance on each side within the possibility of where she might proceed with the body in order to bury it. The hunting season may disclose some information as to this and also as the leaves fall it will make it much easier to detect the open places where digging could be accomplished in the wooded sections. As previously stated the finding of the body I believe presents a definite solution of the case and would be sufficient with the information we now have, to bring this to a very satisfactory conclusion.

In Bureau letter of October 18, 1937 to the New York office it is stated that no purpose could be seen in a check of the terrain in the vicinity of the Parsons house as being conducted by Agents McInerney and Meyer, and that these Agents should be returned to general assignment. The New York City office in letter of October 21, 1937 to the Bureau indicated that acting upon these instructions they had suspended the check being made of the roads and that the four Agents assigned to same were being returned to general assignment in New York City.

mg | I am writing at this time to verify that it was the intention of the Bureau to suspend all activity and search as above previously outlined. I had not instructed any further check in the immediate vicinity of the Parsons house as we had previously covered the grounds of the Parsons property very thoroughly.

Very truly yours,

E. J. Connelley

~~E. J. CONNELLEY,~~

Inspector

EJC:JMS

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