Ed Reed

Enid 2

Colfax, Iowa
Dep Mowris

STENOGRAPHERS'
NOTE BOOK



No._____

From_____ 19 __

To_____ 19 __

Sunday 1/9/20

Enid Ohle

John Walter Robison,
Bob Wilson - Stage Mgr -
Majestic -

Remembers Robson as
correspondent some dramatic
papers - Member Guild
"Ha o" twenty years ago -
Gray hair - smooth shaven
dress fashionable - quite
a sport - Been dead a
good many years -
Thinks he died before George -
Saw George in hotel lobby
and in room - gathering
laundry during day - Stage
Mgr at night

2)

George Cattles clear Robisson
and had mustache -
Robison drank but never
drunk - Hung around
Theater - Eund Opera House
when Companies were here.
Talked like a gentleman -
Was quite polished and
dressed well.

Does not Know how he
made his money -

see later note. George
Judge I. H. Conklin - former Circuit Judge
Secy Elks -
Robison not an Elk -
dont Know if George
had nothing one time

2 shows that he was as
far as Conklin ever heard.
Remembers Robison well -
Came when land was just
opened up - Worked
in land office for
awhile - Was an atty
Came from some place
in Georgia -
Thinks it was Sept
1893 when he came
Been dead six or seven
yrs - Was a very bright
fellow -

O. J. Fleming - Pres, Enid Natl Bank -

Remembers John W. Robison as a land atty about 25 yrs ago remembers that he died a long time ago but just how long he doesn't know -

"Sort of piddled around land law and real Estate spent any money he got quite freely - usually able to borrow from some friends

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Frank Letson - Vice Pres Enid Natl Bank - was interested in amateur dramatics twenty yrs ago - knew J W R quite well. Who was also interested in amateur dramatics Dressed neat and well Was a southerner - never worth much - Borrowed lots of money from friends (himself included) Great friend of Judge Stein who died a year ago - R chased women - Represented some out of town

papers - in order to get acquainted with people - particularly all actresses coming to town - Sent flowers & more than one of them -

Never had a mustache rather long gray hair age some place between 55 and 60 - One of very few men in town & have a dress suit at that time -

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Tom Hopley

Tom Hopley - was newspaper-man at time of George's death - never believed it was Booth - No proof knows what liars newspapers are - Knew Robinson Great Sport - Times he died upon George died -

Mrs JW Steen - wife
of the late Judge Steen
Federal Judge for this
district -

Phon 233 - 710 Broadway East -

Robson was a guest
at their home quite often
the Judge thought a
lot of him and felt
sorry for him - He
came from a fine
Georgian family - and
was sort of a Black
sheep - Says Judge
says R had some
affairs with women
in youth - does not
know details

Was very polished
and a gentleman -
" about your size "
Smooth face.
Died about 1902
Lived alone in a little
cottage which he rented -
Work for dramatic
papers - discussed
plays and players
and Literature very
intelligently -
Never remembers discussing
the Booths -
He read all the dramatic
Magazines of the time.
Came round time in the 90's

Trunks it was in 93
when the govt opened
up land -

R was a Capt
in the Confed Army
Never Communicated
with folks - after his
death Judge wrote some
of them but never received
a reply - People asked
very few personal questions
here re other's past -
Most of them had pasts -
R might have written
play "Shadows of Pen"
but never mentioned
it -

Never talked about self -
was always in a fine
humor - No one had
any idea that he
was ill - Was found
after he was dead -
Pneumonia and lack
of nourishment -
Buried by friends of
which Judge was one.
R was college man
but Mrs S. does not
remember what College.
Very military in bearing.
From Enid Evans
June 1, 1903
On the grave of Major Crump
and Capt. John Walter

Robison, the only two Confed. Soldiers buried here were decorated just the same as the boys who wore the blue"

Enid Elks founded Jan 11, 1903.

Burial Records
County Clerks
Office - About
every other one 1898-
1903 - was - "Name
unknown or no
relative could be
found"

John Walter Robison
Buried Oct 10th
1902 - Lot 44 Block
K -

Article Copied from
the Enid Wave - Oct 13,
1902 - Telling of death
and burial of John Walter
Robison - Sent E. H.

1/10/21

George -

Eugene McConkay

Knew George in Kennesaw - about 20 Miles South Enid - in 1896 - Remembers it was that time for George Bet a lot of money on election of McKinley and won - Claims he was betting for some eastern men -

McConkay was a Sign Painter and George a house painter - Represented that he was.

George claimed in
fun! that he had
studied silicon decorating
in St. Louis.
He took painting contracts
but painted near the
ground himself - employed
boys to paint up high
while he sat on porch
and bossed job - none
of which were much more
than potches -
McC never knew
the old man as other
than George - never
as Ryan as (Bates says)
never heard of the name
in connection with him -

McCauley loaned George
50 cents several times -
always was paid back -
He got money from outside
never any much during
time he knew him except
the one time when he was
letting - must have been
a couple hundred dollars
While in Kennessy
George had Mustache
and goatee - both of which
he dyed - Made every
attempt to look young
Boarded at Carbine
Hated with old man
Carbine - who would

be about ready to throw him out. When George would get a remittance and pay up — Mc — Never knew in what form the remittance came or how much —

Drank a lot when he had money.

Mc left Hen. in April 1900 for Enid - Did not know George came here until after his death — Took a picture of him — had fattened up a lot —

was tall and lanky at Hen.

Mc say that here (Enid) he (George) told people he was a carpenter

Everyone in Hen knew he wasn't a painter after 1st yok - but so many people were down here who had "pasts" that no one asked many questions.

Mc says George had a good education and quite often would recite from Shakespear Who he called "old Bill" Can remember him reciting Lincoln's

Getty - address wrote much gusto - for days he would be jolly and then for several days be morose

Mc called him "Dad" George - one time said to him "Dad you've seen better days" George answered - "Yes, booze will get the best of them"

Never spoke of Booth or Lincoln's assn -

Betting on Commission wasn't at all unusual then -

George talked a lot re South and claimed he had been a Confed Soldier - discussed war with one old Fed. Soldier just to fix - (Mc could not remember Fed. sol. name)

George tried to affect the Ky. Col. type -

Talked a lot about interior decorating and art

George helped Mc figure out repainting Opera House curtain

George was at Hen- possibly a year.

was a great friend of a carpenter there by name of Parker who later moved away to Wichita

George complained of Rheumatism - did not limp -

At Hennessey others claimed that Mc was only 16 or 17 yrs old and doubtless would not know Bill Shakespeare from Bill Bryan Mc father a painter, Mc not old enough to be much of a painter himself -

1/10/21

Rev M Porter, Enid -

Rev E.C. Harper followed Rev Porter as pastor 2 M.E. Church Enid and Rev Porter became supervising Elder - still lived in Enid - Remembers hearing Mrs Harper tell about Conversion - says Mrs H was a nurse before marriage and was caring for George at Simmons -

Rev Harper died in 1906. Mrs H went

back to her folks at Amarillo Texas.
(could not give me name)
She married again
several years ago,
but Rev P does not
know what her new
name is or where she
lives -

Had a brother who
was printer & newspaper
man at Sears near
El Reno.

Robt Wilson

Stage Mgr Majestic Stage Mgr. Grand Opera House 1903
Theater did not require
services during day -
Gathered laundry
Got Georges at
Grand Ave Ho at
about 9 Am a couple
times a week - most
the time he would be
in bed - half drunk
and cursing like the
dickens - Saw George
in Sotty once drunk
and dumont threatening
to fire him out if he
did not return to room

and remain quiet -

A few saloon keepers Bernstein, on South side & Square would take whiskey & George or send it by his (B's) Son - although against orders of both - Wilson told Dumont -

Never saw George on street in Enid - was always in room or lobby - Came for George's laundry about five minutes after he died -

George's hair was gray not quite so much as Robinson's George - big mustache Robinson None -

Says George was sick practically all time he was here.

1/10/24 Frank Nelson V.P. Enid Nat'l Bank and O J Fleming - and old local Merchant agreed that Bernstein was Leo Bernstein who sold saloon many years ago and went to Chicago - Was back through here a couple

yrs ago and called
at the Bank
74 saloons here about
that time - Town wide
open -

W. H. Ryan -
Schaffer & Ryan
Embalmed body of
Yeager. Saw effects
Ino M.S.S some letters
from Whores - Ryan
& Penniman had a
falling out soon after
& Ryan went in for
himself - ~~Peoples bank~~
Walroth & Perry -
Who now own Penniman
's place say Ryan
would be prejudiced
against Penniman -

Ryan says all

Pan was looking for was a doorknob. Says I never claimed it was Booth. Let others do it for him.

"Lord only knows what Bates had in mind. unless it was his book".

Body of George had scar on right shin. May have been only a bruise.

Claims Bates & P came to Undertaking establishment the night before and viewed body and that Bates acted next day as though he had never seen it. Says he saw them go in. Says they didn't see him.

Ryan says the wrong leg was hurt. That several years after he was talking to a Capt Price who was in Wash at time of assn and told him it was Booth left and not right leg that was injured.

Says Mrs Surratt married again about 5 yrs ago and moved

to Arkansas City.

George never confessed here that he was Booth was at El Reno.

No scar on back of neck of George. Eyes a cross between a blue and a gray says Bates a crook & Penniman a former newspaper man looking for advertising "Penniman would never say anything definite as to whether he believed it was Booth or not, but said that it (story) was revived periodically, advertised Embalming fluid -

Wanted to take Body to St Louis Fair but Fair people wouldn't let him -

~~From Buried Reads~~

1/11/21

Everett Purcell Editor Enid Events - Ran weekly paper - was here at that time - Says never believed it was Booth

But that was up to the Government to dispose when asked why some of the papers didn't go after story and investigate. Said Billy Pen- was a good fellow and then it advertised Enid.

"The newspapers all took it as a sort of joke and played it up.

Pinal became P.M. Enid a short time after - Said 2 or 3 weeks there would show no remittance. Same thing said by W.P. Campbell - present P.M.

Says - Dr Way - dead. Dr McElrath - "

Editor "Wave" 1903
J. L. Isenberg.
427 South Hope St
Los Angeles Cal

1/11/27

Old Grand Ave Hotel

S. E. Cor Square is now Jensman Bros & Co. Hardware - was taken to second story by Lee Boyd and although partition have been torn out. he, showed where George's bed was located. and explained how he - Boyd - climed over the partition -

1-11

Mrs. Dunmont - Dunmond died 1916 She married again about 2 yrs ago and now does at Hooker, Okla Married a doctor Dr W. W. D. Akers. Story from Mrs W to English & Mrs Thomas Jewell. both say she never talked to Booth although they knew him well -

1/10/21 Boston Corbett

Mr. W. T. Sexsmith -
Editor Enid Eagle
Came from Kansas.
knows a lot re
Boston Corbett -
Says Mr Sommer
i. Davis, Concordia,
Kansas can give us
all historical details -
Corbett adj - a session
of District Court
Jury & all with guns before the
time that he left -
Legislature Shot
in air -
Was not him -
that later claimed
delusion - Would never
have anything to do with
Jesus -

George -
1/9/21 - Sunday - Enid -
A. T. Seward - a
third cousin to Seward
who was attached in
Wash D.C. : was Mgr
W.U. office in Enid
in 1903 - Says George
gave him a wire to
some one in Texas,

thinks the town sounded like Glen Rose or Granbury - Wire asked for money - This was just a few days before George died - The wire was sent one day and the money came by wire the next - That is all Seward can remember except that George had some other man with him when he came for money.

Wires are not kept on file for longer than one year - Seward was mgr of office at that time and did not work wire much. There may have been a lot of them sent & received. Seward has been Correspondent for K.C. papers for 17 years and Bill board & Clipper 17 yrs - "Thespian" Remembers JW Robison quite well - was lots better dressed than George and was smooth faced - not as tall as George.

Seward - took a crowd of actors over to see the body among them was C.W. Streater of the Madison Sq. Theater - these actors said they had known Edwin Booth and said that George looked like the Booths - Had Booth features.

(also Ike Spears & Jim Buckley)

Seward said George was a big man - six feet tall and rather heavy set -

Seward is an operator at present W.U.

1/12/21 S.E. Walroth
Allen N. Perry.
Who bought out Penniman in 1913.

Both say do not remember old trunk with anything of George's in it. There was a couple old trunks - One had some Woman's clothes in it. -(Penn told of exchange) Do not remember just what was done with it. People have come in occasionally

and looked at pictures during last seven years - never took their names - None of them ever said anything worth remembering or noting.

A couple years ago a fellow came in who said he had a Mummy in Chicago but would rather have "Booth" Said he had heard it was for sale for $1000.00 or $1500.00 Said he would pay that much for it -

Said he understood the Mummy was now in Smithsonian Institute - Says Bates wrote him so. Tells everyone that Come the same - Several others told me the same thing.

1/11/01

Doctor Baker - Enid - Said "yes he and Dr Way had examined body but didn't remember much about it. Said whatever paper said at time ~~was~~ that they said was true Said he never nothing

further - Could'nt
remember whether
it was right or left
leg broken - Does
not now have
Copy of 1901 Medical
Journal - Baker is about 45
must have been pretty
young at time
Or way now dead

From "Enid Wave"
Sept 14, 1903
The Enid Legion Co -
of South Side has
sold out to C.D.
Frankie of Pond Creek

See Bernstein, Mgr
intends going into the
grain buying business

Lee Boyd
724 South Grand Ave
Rock Island Rooming
House. He & Dr Fields
Sworn statement taken
sent to E.L. 1/14/21

Boyd says George
died about 9 or 10 o'clock
in the morning - June
2nd time for he was working
nights for Rock Island
as a telegraph Operator
and got off at 6 am

Came home (hotel) got breakfast and I was Sitting in the lobby reading when Minnie the maid ~~[illegible]~~. Came down and said there was something wrong with old man George See statement

Boyd says Brown was a man about 45 or 50 yrs - Tall slender fellow in poor health left there soon after could find none who knew where he went.

Boyde said he never heard story that Brown tells in Bates Book.

Only time George ever talked with Boyd was the morning after Boyde Came from work as he was coming down stairs to Breakfast, George called him and wanted him to get some whiskey which Boyd said he could'nt do since it was against the rules of the hotel - It made George "sore" and he kept absolutely away from Boyde

Boyd heard George calling around the lobby of hotel. Days as he remembers. George was pretty well liked. Talked well when sober which was seldom. "Got booze from Chenal" Saloon on South side Square - Saw Bersteins Son in Georges room with him several times. Pop. Enid 1903 - 6 & 8 M.

In County Clerks Office — Enid

2 wills & a letter

(sent to Ekl 1/13/21

Envelope containing Will - "Publicly opened by Probate Judge M.C. Garber in Open Court Jan 20, 1903

Peninnah ado — Enid Eagle Re Closing of Estate 3 time Jan 29, Feb, 5 & 12 - 1903

Coroners Bill - Feb 5, 1903 $76.45 against Estate D.A. George - Coroner J.S. Jacobs -

Peninnahs "Petition

for Letters Testamentary gives Anna K Smith's address as Co[illegible] Iowa Jan 26, 1903.

Property valued at about $50.00 - Testimony of Probate Feb 20, 1903 gives Anna K Smith, address as Decatur, Iowa.

Executrix appointed administrator Feb 20, 1903

Will probated Jan 16, 1903 - Estate of David E George Case 229 -

Anna K Smith - Reno -
Geo E Smith - Executors
Both of El Reno -
Witness - Frank Austine - dead
W. T. Banks - an Elk - Boarded at Austine Hotel at time - was a lawyer. Good friend of "Prof" Smith - is in Seattle, Wash. Now - (Perry)

Will made El Reno June 17th 1902 - On back

"This will handed me etc
by Geo E Smith on
Jan 17, 1903 - Sgd - M E Parker

Will Dec 31, 1902

Witnessed

Chas S Evans - Druggist -
Now with Oregon-Lexington
Auto Co - Portland,
Oregon —

~~Man~~

Chas O Wood
Was real estate man
and quite prominent
in Enid - Now dead

Man in Probate Office
Remembered that after
Berkshires sold saloon
went to K.C. - Heard
that they left that for
Chi -

1/6/21

Mrs Cameron

Born in Memphis Tenn

Maiden name was

Josie annetta Woniger

1905-1910 - Dutch baby

wooden shoe stunt in

Vaudeville. Southwest

Never sure that George

was Robison - Never saw

body - Picture looked the

same - showed her

tin type - She was sure it

was the same man.

Husband read George story

in St Louis Post Dispatch

Summer 1903 - They decided

must be same man. They

were living at Little Rock at time -

At time Mrs Cameron was in Memphis he looked up Bates -
Told Bates re Robison
showed picture of Booth.
Mrs C sent Bates Robison letters - Bates kept them some time.
Mr or Mrs C had never read Bates book -
informed Bates when in Memphis - She had a copy the 2nd time I visited her
Said she could not understand where Bates got name Harris - She had never heard it before

---

She had seen Robison but four or five times.
Enid + El Reno - 2 weeks
She had left the Company due to fear of small pox before they went to Guthrie -
He was there to see her with a bunch of flowers.
Then wrote the 2 letters and Mr C came - Mr C's disturbed -
"Col" Hamilton was the owner of "Woman in

Seemed to be quite
friendly to Robison
who represented the
Dramatic Mirror.
Mrs C never heard
it said that R
wrote "Shadows of Sin"
She and one of the
other girls in Co was
looking for the theater
in Cincinnati & got to Old
house instead of Lees.
Man watched them from
Corner - came up &
asked if they belonged
to Woman in Case
Co - told them that
they opened new
Opera House and
took them to it -
Later Cal & told Miss C
that a Dramatic Mirror
man wanted to see her
and to treat him nice
and she would get a
good send off.
R. told here she was
too talented to play in
the sort of play she was
in - She says he guided
Shakespeare - Criticized
her acting - never coached
her - Had a write-up
of her in Mirror -
Was well dressed, had

plenty of money-
Polished — particular in appearance
Never confessed
any connection with
death of Lincoln — or
any other crime - Never
spoke of it - never gave
her photos - Only ones
she ever saw (of Booth) were in
magazines

Mrs C never saw
body of George - Compared
Booth + Robinson hand-
writing - that they were
the same - Recognized
pictures of George
dead as Robinson.

Bates wanted her to
go along with exhibition
of body and sing and
he would lecture -
She would not consider
this at all.

She didn't feel good
toward Bates for way
he treated her on some
legal papers - + did
not thank her for use
of letters.

Poison scene + choking
scene in "Shadows of Sin"
Plot - Wronging of a
lighthouse keepers daughter
and revenge of her brother

Rob - Cautged Malaria
Elliott + Julia Marlow
Mrs C answered Rob
just letter 2nd 2nd
"Shadows of Sin" was to
open at Evansville Ind
on 1902 - She went
up there from Memphis, but
did not appear, because
Mrs Hamilton did not
come -

Mr Chas A Cameron
C/o Morris + Co
Union Stock Yds -
Chi - Oil Dept -

12/27/20

Mrs Evans - Chicago
Church Home for old Ladies
(Episcopal) - 76 yrs old
She and husband in
"Our American Cousin"
Cast - not on stage
in dressing room heard
shot and commotion -
ran out on stage - actors
kept pretty quiet - were
afraid they would be
blamed because JWB
was an actor -

She says Ferguson was
on stage and knows a
lot about it, but would
never talk -

She does not know
much - Memory not good
Gets mixed up.
Laughs at idea of
Booth having escaped.

Bragg - Serg At Arms
King Home for old
Men - Garfield Blvd
+ 55th St.

1/7/21 Colfax, Iowa.
Geo B. (E) Smith
+ D.E. George -
never heard of either
of them - all old Citizens
P.H. Cragan, Atty
H.W. Woods Jewelry
C.E. Young - Trav Man
17 yrs ago - Now Creamery -
W.H. Riley - Trav Man
25 yrs - Overalls + Sox
Mr. Lyons - Postmaster
10 yrs -
Ed. Bollhoefer - General
Indoe.
Billy Davis - Clothing

Last & first City
directory 1909.
No newspaper files
back of 1913.
Mason House
register - not kept
over 5 years -
Billy Davis - Davis &
Davis Clothier.
Hans Robinson
Postmaster 1903
Mr. Cutler Undertaker
Dr Cain - Dentist
No record deposit
1st Nat Bank
Mr Cummings
Mr Dotson
1st Nat. Bank

Decorah, Iowa.
Over flume from
Des Moines -
Mr A. M. Hughes
Secy Elks Lodge -
Geo E Smith a
member there 1903
moved from there
to Milwaukee some
years ago - another
member with Mr
Hughes said Smith
would answer description
Has a brother by
name of W. R. Smith
at Warsaw Wis
~~Will~~ Hughes will write

further particulars
if I send address.

Newton, Iowa
Oven Stone 1/7
from Des Moines
M. R. Hammer Jr.
Says he thinks
father got interested
from reading book
or newspaper article
on Booth. Never
heard him say he
knew anything about
it - other than what
he read. Now visiting
in Florida - Write
him at Newton &
it will be forwarded.

1/15/21 Mrs Austine -

Can't remember that George ever limped but had sort of a staggery walk. May have been because he drank so much - Never said anything about a broken leg - Never said anything re folks near Little Rock or in Texas - Never heard him discuss the Theater or Mrs Durratt - Never noticed anything peculiar in his eyebrows - Both matched as far as she remembers - and thinks she would