(1) Bates Page 286 ~~258~~

at the time he was interviewed in Oklahoma City Jan 13, 1921

Oklahoma City, January 13, 1921. Tom F. Hensley, ~~new~~ a State Senator, was the Editor of the El Reno Democrat in 1901, 2 and 3, ~~says~~ He said that he knew D. E. George quite well, that George advertised in his paper for a while, ~~That he was~~ but being slow to pay for his advertising ~~and that~~ it was dropped ~~out since he, Hensley,~~ did not expect to be paid for it and knew ~~that~~ That it was unnecessary anyway since it was well known ~~that~~ all over town that George was a painter. Mr Hensley said After the ad was dropped, George came in and kicked and was quite insulted about ~~the~~ its removal ~~of the ad~~. ~~It was then~~ and he replaced for a short time. At this time Mr. Hensley ~~says~~ said that their conversation drifted to the Civil War and Mrs. Surratt, ~~and this is the only time that George ever appeared dramatic and displayed any special intelligence.~~ ~~He says~~ George claiming that Mrs. Surratt had been murdered. Mr. Hensley says this is the only time he ever saw George strike any dramatic poises and, thought he was partly drunk and just raving. He says that he thinks George was a Southerner and a staunch Democrat, but that he never heard of him taking part in any political meetings. He says that George was a bothersome fellow only when drinking, that at other times he was very quite. ~~When shown the tin type of St. Helen Mr. Hensley says it looks something like George, in fact quite a little.~~ ~~He says~~ that around El Reno George was considered as just a drunken bum and painter; ~~that he was a type of the~~ a down and outer, not particularly polished, and that he never heard him quote

Shakespeare and was sure that he never had any amount of money. Mr. Hensley says that Bellamy of the bank is now dead and that Grant of the Republican has gone West some place. Mr. Hensley says that Laura Ida Booth wrote a letter from New York City to him claiming that George was her Father and that about the same time he got a letter from Laura Ida's brother, both of which letters rather impressed him that George might be John Wilkes Booth. He says that he wrote the brother, but never heard further from him, but got several letters from Laura Ida Booth in which she was quite anxious to know about the estate. Mr. Hensley says that some years ago Laura Ida Booth came down to El Reno from Enid and that she had some picture of Booth which Hensley said he thought it looked something like George. Mr. Hensley says that she told him she had seen the mummy at Enid and was sure that it was her Father. Hensley remembers Clark Smith and that he seemed to be a friend of George. Mr. Hensley says; "I always thought there was something mysterious between Smith and George.

~~Bates p 94~~
~~95~~

This story was told by Dana 32 years after the events it attempts to narrate ~~and~~ happened ~~and~~ was given from memory to a party who later writes it from memory - Two chances for mistakes and exaggeration

Patrolling - plot - Does not say how long before assass - this plot was learned of -

Witness C.T. saw not patrols on road between Bridge & Surrathville - and people were constantly coming into and leaving the city at time of assass - Dana has possibly gotten mixed up on his time -

2 Bates page 96

Refer to evidence showing that Booth & Herold were not out of Washington on the 14th.

Reference to guard carrying out orders exaggeration to show that Dana was on the job. - Could not have drawn in guards on line from Fort Meigs to Surratsville as there were no guards.

Although Dana's name is listed with others who put in a claim for part of the reward, he is not even mentioned in the Congressional debates on the distribution of the reward.

Congressional Globe ~~39th~~ 1st session 39th Congress pp 423, 4183-91

which would indicate that the Congressional Committee in charge, after sifting the claims did not feel that ~~he~~ Dana had contributed anything ~~worth~~ toward the capture of ~~Herold~~ Booth and Herold.