

SPC:RCL

December 11, 1933.

RECORDED

7-375-57  
b7c

San Jose, California.

DEC 14 1933

Dear Madam:

Kindly be advised that your letter of November 27, 1933, concerning the Hart and Lindbergh kidnaping cases has been received and given appropriate attention.

As requested by you, same are being returned herewith, the ransom notes attached to your letter. I wish to thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Director.

RECEIVED  
★ DEC 12 1933 ★  
F. B. I.  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enclosure 691029

(No copy of ransom notes returned retained in Div. files.)

RL

PK

SFC:ALX

December 12, 1933

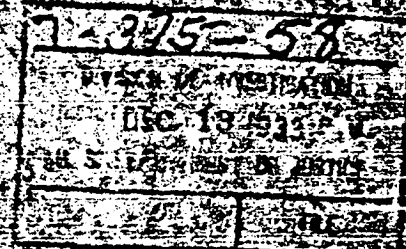
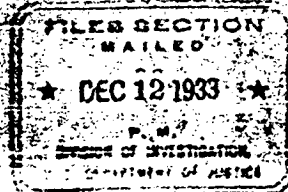
Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
333 Hayes Building,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

Kindly advise the Division whether the  
report covering the work reported of the kidnappers  
and the methods of solution used in the investigation  
in the Brooks & Hart kidnaping case has been prepared  
and forwarded to the various Division offices.

Very truly yours,

Director.



# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO.

1-27

REPORT MADE AT San Francisco, Cal.	DATE WHEN MADE 12/19/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/15/35	BY WHOM MADE BY R. L. Vetterli--IS
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TITLE THOMAS W. WHELAN JOHN M. BOLAND BROCK L. BENT - Victim.	CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING
--	--------------------------------

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

Investigation completed. Subjects lynched.

C.

Report of Special Agent in Charge  
R. L. Vetterli, San Francisco,  
California, dated November 27,  
1935.

As stated in report of reference, both sub-  
jects, while in the custody of the State, were lynched by a mob  
of over three thousand people at San Jose, California, November  
28th.

Investigation completed.



SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
DEC 20 1935

APPROVED AND FORWARDED  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	7-375-54 DEC 20 1935 REC 20 1935
1 U.S. Attorney, San Francisco. 2 San Francisco.	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RECEIVED 

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
318 Hewes Building  
San Francisco, California.

*W.H. Byrnes*

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

REV: IS  
Refer file  
#7-27.

December 19, 1933.

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

You will find attached hereto an original and one copy of a Brief, prepared by the writer, on the "Thomas H. Thurmond, John M. Holmes, Brooke L. Hart - Victim" kidnaping case, at San Jose, California.

Photostatic copies of this brief are being forwarded to the respective field offices today.

Very truly yours,

*R. E. Vetterli*

R. E. VETTERLI,  
Special Agent  
in Charge.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DEC 21 1933

Encs.-2.

*W.H. Byrnes*  
*eb*

RECORDED  
JAN 8 - 1934

7-375-60  
JAN 20 1934

CSatr

February 23, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

There is attached hereto an interesting  
write-up on the case of BROCKE L. HART - KIDNAPING.

Respectfully,

Clinton Stein,

Enclosure #691654.

U. S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
318 Howe Bldg.,  
San Francisco, California.

REV:13  
Refer file  
#7-27.

December 14, 1933.

BRIEF

OF THE KIDNAPING CASE OF

BROOKE L. HART  
San Jose, California

THOMAS H. THURMOND  
JOHN M. HOLMES  
BROOKE L. HART - Victim.  
Kidnaping

Prepared by Special Agent in Charge R. E. Fetterli  
of the San Francisco, California Division Office

7-275-60

### SALIENT FACTS

At 6 p.m., November 9, 1933, Brooks L. Hart, age 22 years, son of a prominent merchant at San Jose, California, left his father's store to secure his personal automobile, which was in a parking lot approximately fifty yards from the Hart Department Store at San Jose, California.

Upon reaching the parking lot, he secured his Studebaker Roadster, conversed for three or four minutes with one of the attendants of the parking lot, then drove to one of the main streets at San Jose, adjacent to the parking lot, a distance of about twenty-five yards, at which point he stopped upon reaching the sidewalk, preparatory to entering the main street, whereupon Subject Holmes opened the door of the Studebaker Roadster, and with gun in hand, forced Victim Hart to drive on in his car, stopping at one or two stop lights in the heart of the business section of San Jose, and out through the main part of town, to a small town known as Milpitas, California, at which point, according to a pre-arranged scheme, Subject Thurmond was waiting along the side of the highway in a Chevrolet car belonging to Holmes, and when Subject Holmes passed in the Studebaker Roadster with the Victim, Subject Thurmond followed them to a point on the highway approximately one and one-half miles from Milpitas, on a road which follows the foothills, at which point they abandoned the Studebaker car belonging to the Victim, and placed the Victim in the back seat of Subject Holmes' Chevrolet car, and Subject Holmes and Thurmond then drove towards the point known as the San Mateo Bridge, in San Mateo, California County, a distance of approximately twenty-five miles.

While Holmes was driving, Thurmond covered young Hart with a revolver, and upon reaching the San Mateo Bridge, the Victim was told to get out of the car, and the gun was transferred from Thurmond to Holmes, who hit the Victim over the head with the butt end of the gun, knocking the Victim to the pavement of the bridge, and while the Victim was held by Subject Holmes, Subject Thurmond bound his feet with wire, running the wire through a cement block; also bound the upper part of his arms, above the elbow, to his body, with wire, and ran this wire through another cement block, which was placed about the middle of the back of the Victim.

The Victim was again hit over the head with the butt end of the revolver, and as he cried for help, practically unconscious, Holmes took hold of the arms and shoulders of the Victim, while Thurmond

took hold of the legs and feet, and together they boosted the Victim up over the railing of the San Mateo Bridge, and dropped him into the Bay, after which several shots were fired by both Subjects, at the point where it was believed Victim Hart had hit the water.

It might be stated at this point that both Subjects in this case had been involved in several small hi-jacking crimes in San Jose, which developed later, and had intended kidnaping Victim Brooke Hart, and upon its completion, were to cease their operations in crime. They had definitely decided upon a scope of activity, whereby they had purchased a revolver, wire, and cement blocks, so that they might do away with the body of the Victim Brooke Hart, and after the disposal of the Victim, demand \$40,000 ransom from the father. The scheme was simply one of cold, premeditated murder, with the plan of extorting \$40,000 after the murder had been committed.

After tossing the Victim Brooke L. Hart into the San Francisco Bay, both Subjects returned speedily to San Jose, California, at which point Subject Holmes kept an engagement that night with friends, while Subject Thurmond returned to his home in San Jose, changed clothes, and immediately drove in his father's car to San Francisco, California, at which point he telephoned to the Hart home about 9:30 or 10:00 o'clock, November 9, 1933, and advised a sister of the Victim Brooke Hart that her brother had been kidnaped, was being held for \$40,000 ransom, and that further instructions would be received by the family, but if the Police were notified, they would never see the Victim again.

Subject Thurmond returned to San Jose, California that same night, and the following day took a letter, which he and Subject Holmes had prepared, and went to Sacramento, California, at which point this letter was mailed to Mr. Hart, Sr., the father of Victim at San Jose, California, telling him to secure \$40,000, specifying the numbers and amounts of the bills, telling him to await further instructions, and to keep in touch with radio station K.P.O., in Oakland.

Thurmond immediately returned from Sacramento, California to San Jose, California, and the following day left for San Francisco with another letter, which both Subjects had prepared, addressed to Mr. Hart. The letter was mailed from San Francisco to San Jose by Subject Thurmond, wherein Mr. Hart was given instructions to place a numeral "1" in the window of his store at San Jose, indicating that he was ready and willing to comply with the demands of the kidnapers. In this letter they advised Mr. Hart, the father of the Victim, to have a radio installed in his son's car, and proceed on the highway towards Los Angeles, California, outlining the course to be followed, and to have the \$40,000 in a black bag on the right of the seat of the roadster, and to have the rumble seat open.



Mr. Hart could not drive a car, and therefore could not comply.

Later the same night he received a telephone call from Subject Thurmond, inquiring as to why he had not followed instructions, at which time he was told he better follow instructions right away, and that he, no doubt, knew by this time that neither the Police, the Sheriff, nor the Federal Agents could assist him at all in this matter.

On the night of November 14, 1933, a young friend of the Victim received a telephone call from one of the Subjects in this case, directing him to get in touch with Mr. Hart immediately, and to tell Mr. Hart to take the 7:30 train that evening for Los Angeles; that he would be met by a man with a white mask, to whom he should turn over the money. Of course, Mr. Hart did not take this trip.

Later that night he received a further telephone call. On November 15, 1933 a further letter was received by Mr. Hart, advising him that if he ever wanted to see his son again, he must take a car and proceed towards Los Angeles, as had been described in a previous letter, and if he was ready and willing to go through with the deal, he should place a numeral "2" in his store window, where the numeral "1" had been placed.

Accordingly, the numeral "2" was placed in the window, but in view of the fact that Mr. Hart could not drive a car, in large black letters were printed the words "I cannot drive".

As a result, the same night, about 7:30 p.m., November 15, 1933, Mr. Hart received a further telephone call from a pay station in a garage at San Jose, California, in which further instructions were given to him, and while this conversation was taking place with Subject Thurmond, Agents effected the apprehension of Subject Thurmond in the garage at San Jose, while he was still telephoning, and after several hours of questioning, secured a complete confession from him, implicating Subject Holmes.

Accordingly, Agents immediately went to the garage where Subject Holmes' car was stored, searched the car, dismantled it so it could not be driven away, and then took Subject Thurmond to the hotel where Subject Holmes resided, having recently separated from his wife, and when Subject Thurmond knocked at the door, and

called for Subject Holmes, about 2:30 a.m., November 16th, the door was opened by Subject Holmes, and he was immediately taken into custody, and a complete confession secured from him.

Both Subjects were indicted by the Federal Grand Jury at San Francisco, California, under the extortion angle of the so-called "Lindbergh" Act. A preliminary complaint was filed charging both Subjects with kidnaping, at San Jose, California, and both Subjects were returned to San Jose by Sheriff Emig, who had been working constantly on this case, in complete cooperation with Agents.

Subjects, who had been removed to San Francisco, California for safe keeping, were returned to San Jose, California, on the State charge, November 26th, and on November 27th were both taken by a mob of about three thousand people, and lynched across the street from the Court House, in a park.

It appears that the mob had possibly contemplated some action, but were waiting until the body of the Victim had been found, and on the early morning of November 27th, the body of the Victim Brooks L. Hart was located by two duck hunters in the San Francisco Bay, and this same night the mob went into action, and lynched both Subjects.

These are briefly the facts indicating the operations of both Subjects in perpetrating this kidnaping.

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION AND SOLUTION

About midnight, November 9, 1933, a telephone call was received from Chief of Police Black, at San Jose, California, stating that young Brooks L. Hart had disappeared, and stating that a telephone call had been received from San Francisco, from the Whitecomb Hotel, demanding \$40,000 ransom, and stating that further instructions would be received.

The Agent in Charge immediately got in touch with Special Agent William R. Ramsey, Jr., at San Jose, California, who happened to be at San Jose at that particular time, and instructed Agent

Ramsay to get on this case at once, and a new private, unlisted telephone line was immediately run into the Hart residence by the telephone company, to assist in checking further telephone calls. It appeared that Subjects, having used the telephone the night of November 9th, might continue to use this method of contact. A private telephone was installed so that an immediate check might be made.

Arrangements were made with the telephone company so that if any long distance calls were received by the Hart family, Agent Ramsay, who was stationed at the Hart home, would be notified at once, but before the call was completed to the Hart residence, it was to be checked in detail, so that information might be received by Agents first as to from what phone, and what point the call was being received.

Agent Ramsay was given instructions as to the handling of all mail received by Mr. Hart, and as a result, for the next few days, Agent Ramsay not only answered all telephone calls at the Hart residence, but was given a room in the home of Mr. Hart, Sr., opened all mail, and, in fact, took complete charge of all activities at the Hart house.

As soon as Agent in Charge Vetterli was notified of this case by Chief of Police Black, he immediately went to Police headquarters, San Francisco, California, and there effected arrangements with the telephone company, so that if any further calls were placed to the Hart home from San Francisco, or any surrounding points, that before the calls were completed, this Agent would be notified immediately by the chief operator, and a private line was run into the Police Station at San Francisco, and this number was given to the Manager of the telephone company, and the chief long distance operator, so that this line was kept clear at all times.

Officers were stationed at all ferry landings, and on all highways and bridges, to keep a lookout for the car of the Victim Brooks L. Hart, which at this time had not been located. In addition, two radio cars were placed at rest in the vicinity of the Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco, from which point the first call had been placed to the Hart family at San Jose, California. These radio cars which were placed at rest had their radios tuned in at all times with Police headquarters, and if any developments took place, their numbers were to be called, and simply would be told to go to a certain point. In other words, over the radio the kidnaping was not to be mentioned at all, so that if, per chance, the kidnapers were tuned in, they would have no idea as to the concentrated effort being made.

Arrangements were also made with the Western Union Telegraph Company, and the Postal Telegraph Company, both at San Francisco and San Jose, California, so that if any wire were dispatched to San Jose for Mr. Hart, giving him instructions, this office would be notified at once, and arrangements were so perfected that if anyone telephoned a message by pay station telephone to the Western Union or Postal Telegraph Companies, and by this method transmitted a wire to Mr. Hart, that Agents would be notified immediately.

An all night vigil was maintained at Police headquarters at San Francisco and San Jose on the night of Thursday, November 9th. The afternoon of the 10th further Agents were dispatched to San Jose, at which time the father of the Victim, and the entire family were interviewed, as were all friends, attendants at the Hart store, the proprietor of the parking lot, and employees of the real estate company which is between the parking lot and the street. The diary of the Victim was located, and thoroughly searched for any possible information. All speakeasies and gambling joints in the vicinity of San Jose, California, were scrutinized carefully, and a lengthy interview was had with the fiancée of the Victim, but no information at all was received from anyone, indicating any reason why the Victim should have disappeared, nor was there the slightest bit of evidence indicating anyone had seen anything irregular to indicate there had been a kidnaping.

On Friday, November 10th, the car of Victim was found on the highway, as outlined above, and was immediately searched, and gone over very carefully for fingerprints. None were located. It was later ascertained, however, that Subject Holmes had carefully wiped off the steering wheel and other parts of the car, so that there would be no fingerprints. The gas tank of the car was filled, and the car did not appear to have been in any accident, or run into a curb anywhere.

The people in the vicinity of the spot where the car was found abandoned, were interviewed, but they had no information of value.

On November 11th the first letter was received by Mr. Hart from Sacramento, California. This letter, together with subsequent letters, were handled by Special Agents of the Division, who read them to Mr. Hart, Sr., pointed out various errors in spelling, or discrepancies which appeared therein, and the wording of the letters, so that Mr. Hart might be able to testify properly as to the receipt of the letters, and they were then carefully wrapped in cellophane before being handled by anyone.

Saturday, November 11th, the pocket book of Victim Brooke L. Hart, was found on the railing of an oil tanker, which was loading the ship "Lurline", en route to Los Angeles, and then to Honolulu. This pocket book was found by a third party, and reflected there was no money in it, but the personal cards of Victim Brooke Hart remained therein. It was water soaked, and efforts to secure fingerprints were unavailing.

Believing the Victim might have gone on the ship "Lurline", the Los Angeles office was notified, and Special Agent Philbrick of the San Francisco office proceeded by plane to Los Angeles, California, with the manager of Mr. Hart's Department Store, where the ship was boarded before it docked at Los Angeles, and searched from stem to stern. Victim was not located. Inquiries by Agents at San Francisco at the dock where the oil tanker "Midway" was located, were unavailing, and the individual who found the wallet could not furnish any information.

Reports were received from all up and down the State that the Victim had been seen at this point or another point.

During all this time Special Agent Ramsey remained at the Hart house, never leaving it, and he was accorded complete cooperation by the Hart family. Several conferences had been had by Agent in Charge Vetterli with Mr. Hart, Sr., and other members of his family, but they could not furnish any possible motive.

Certain facts indicated that the kidnaping was possibly an amateur's job, owing to the fact that while Mr. Hart, Sr., was quite wealthy, and owns a beautiful home, he is in straightened condition financially at the present time, and it is not believed that any professional kidnaper would have taken his son without knowing his financial condition, which would have prevented his paying any \$10,000 ransom. In addition, in the first letter received by Mr. Hart, he was instructed to keep in touch with radio station K.P.O., at Oakland. This angle did not indicate that it was any gang of professional kidnapers, because it simply enlarged the possibility of locating the kidnapers through another source.

Then again Mr. Hart was told to have a radio installed in his son's Studebaker car. The son already had a radio in his car, and it is not believed that a real professional kidnaper would have been mistaken as to this angle. Further in a later letter Mr. Hart was instructed to drive his son's car towards Los Angeles, California, and it

was believed that any professional kidnaper would have ascertained whether or not Mr. Hart, Sr., could drive.

A further fact indicated it was the job of amateurs - the finding of Victim Brooke Hart's wallet, which was possibly the best means of identification, indicating that the kidnapers had the Victim, which wallet had been discarded, and thrown into the Bay.

From the foregoing, it was decided that no doubt the kidnaping of young Hart was by a group of amateurs.

As further letters were received by Mr. Hart, Sr., the numerals "1" and "2" were prepared by Agents, and placed by trusted store employees in the window of Hart's store, as described by the kidnapers, without letting anyone else in the store know what was going on. Mr. Hart was, of course, advised by Agents not to take any trips, and when no further definite word was received from the kidnapers, it not being at all apparent that the individuals who had been writing the letters, and telephoning to Mr. Hart, were the real kidnapers, owing to the fact they had failed to produce any definite evidence that they held the Victim, Agents prepared for Mr. Hart, Sr., a notice to the press to the effect that he was perfectly willing to negotiate with the kidnapers of his son, and stated that all Agents and officers had been withdrawn from his home, and that he would deal with the kidnapers personally, and there would be no interference at all from any law enforcement agency whatsoever.

From that point on Special Agent Ramsey did not answer any more telephone calls at the Hart home, but listened in on telephone conversations. He continued to secrete himself in the Hart home, however, and handle all mail. A notice was then given to the press by Agent in Charge Vetterli, to the effect that the Federal Government was respecting the wishes of Mr. Hart, and had withdrawn all Agents from the Hart house, and Mr. Hart was to be permitted to have a free hand in this case, and further indications were given to the press that we would not take any further action in this matter until the Victim had been returned, and that we were at a loss to know how to proceed further.

As a result, other letters were received by Mr. Hart, as outlined above. In addition, telephone calls were received from San Jose by Mr. Hart, and these telephone calls were checked immediately by the telephone company, and Special Agent Ramsey immediately contacting with Agents, who were stationed at the St. Claire Hotel, San Jose, and also with Sheriff Emig in San Jose, but on one prior occasion we missed Subject Thurmond, who had just placed a call to the Hart home.

Mr. Hart received several letters from various sections of the country, telling him they had his boy, and accordingly a further statement was drafted for Mr. Hart by Agents, who were driven into the Hart home secreted in the back of a sedan, whereby Mr. Hart gave a further notice to the press, indicating that he was ready and willing to pay the \$40,000 for his son's release, but would have to have some definite evidence indicating that the individuals who were contacting him in reality had his son, owing to the fact that he had received information from several sources that several parties were holding his son, and, of course, all of them could not be holding Brooks L. Hart. This information was also published freely in all the newspapers.

On the night of November 15th, about 7:30 p.m., Mr. Hart received another telephone call from Subject Thurmond, giving him further instructions, and in harmony with previous instructions given Mr. Hart by Agents, he prolonged this conversation as long as he possibly could. As soon as this call was placed to Mr. Hart, Special Agent Ramsey and the chief operator, who were listening in, had this call checked immediately by the private phone which had been installed in the Hart residence. This information was immediately forthcoming to Special Agent Ramsey by the chief operator of the telephone company, and Agent Ramsey, using the private line which had been installed unbeknown to anyone else, immediately notified Agents at the St. Claire Hotel, and Sheriff Enig, to the effect that Mr. Hart was now conversing with an individual who claimed he had his son, and accordingly Sheriff Enig and Agents proceeded immediately to a garage from which the local call was being made by a pay station to the Hart residence, and there took into custody Subject Thurmond, who was still talking to Mr. Hart.

Subject Thurmond was immediately taken to the Sheriff's office, where he was whisked in rapidly to avoid the scrutiny of newspaper men, and there he was questioned, but claimed that he knew the Sheriff, the Sheriff knew his brother, who is a minister, and his sister, who is an organist in the church, and that he had not been in any trouble whatsoever, but finally did admit to Sheriff Enig in the presence of Agents, that he had made the telephone call to the Hart home that night, but that he, Thurmond, had been in love with a girl, and she had married another man, and he had seen her on the streets of San Jose, California, that afternoon; that it exercised him considerably to see her, and that he almost went to pieces; that he went to the theatre, and while in the theatre he heard two men talking about the Hart kidnaping case, and as a result, in a moment of foolishness, he had telephoned Mr. Hart, but knew nothing whatsoever regarding this case.

It was noticed, however, when he was brought into the Sheriff's office that Subject Thurmond turned exceedingly pale, and perspired continuously and very freely, and it was, of course, the impression of Agents that he was not telling the entire truth.

Accordingly, we telephoned the Hart home, and there had the daughter of Mr. Hart, Sr., who had received the first telephone call from the kidnapers at San Francisco, talk to Subject Thurmond. We also had Mr. Hart, Sr., Deputy Sheriff Hicks, and Special Agent Ramsey, who had also talked over the telephone, and had listened in on conversations, talk to Subject Thurmond, and all four were positive that the voice of Subject Thurmond was the same as that which they had heard over the telephone.

Accordingly, Subject Thurmond was grilled from approximately 8 p.m., to 2:30 a.m., the following morning by Agents, (the Sheriff, and his Deputy, and the Chief of Police being merely onlookers,) and step by step he was questioned concerning each telephone call and each letter that had been received, and he finally admitted each detail in connection with each transaction, until we finally got him back to the first telephone call which had been received at the Hart home from San Francisco, which telephone call was received by the Hart family before anyone knew the son had been even kidnaped, and when Subject Thurmond finally admitted that he had placed this telephone call from San Francisco to Mr. Hart, it was known then that he positively had some connection with the kidnaping, but he claimed he had been following instructions from an unknown man at Los Angeles.

He was then questioned most vigorously by Agents, and as a result, within the next hour, made a detailed complete confession outlining the complete kidnaping of the Victim by Thurmond and Holmes, and setting forth in detail the prearranged scheme to kidnap the Victim and murder him, which they had done.

The voluntary confession of Subject Thurmond was immediately reduced to writing about 3:30 the same morning before he had an opportunity to secure legal counsel, in which he outlined everything in detail. From him we secured the name of Subject Holmes, who had assisted Thurmond in this kidnaping. We immediately went to the garage where Subject Holmes kept his car, and which car was pointed out to us by Subject Thurmond, after which we searched the car very carefully, but failed to find anything of value. Then we dismantled the car, so if Subject Holmes came for same, he would be unable to drive off with it. We then took Subject Thurmond with us to a local hotel at San Jose, and from the manager ascertained that Subject Holmes was registered there at that time in room 91, and we then went to the third floor of this hotel, at which point Subject Thurmond knocked at Subject Holmes' door, and called for him by name, and when Holmes opened the door, Agents rushed in and took him into custody.

He denied having anything to do with this matter, and when brought to the Sheriff's office, positively refused to make any statement. However, Agents read to him the complete confession of Subject Thurmond, and Subject Holmes made one remark which indicated that he was mixed up in this kidnaping, because after we had read to him the confession of



Subject Thurmond, implicating Holmes, Holmes made a statement to the effect that he "did not know Thurmond would be a snitch". He refused to say anything further.

In view of the feeling at San Jose, California, Subjects were whisked out of jail by automobile to San Francisco, at which point Subject Holmes was interrogated further, and made a detailed confession, regarding his participation in this crime. Subject Thurmond was accompanied by Sheriff Emig, and this Agent, to San Francisco, California, and was driven to the San Mateo Bridge, where he endeavored to point out the approximate point where the Victim had been tossed into the San Francisco Bay. After several days of searching the body of Victim Brooke L. Hart was found, and the same night both Subjects were lynched.

It may be of interest to note that, of course, all angles with respect to the finding of the pocket book, the checking of the call at the Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco, etc., received early and vigorous attention at all times, and were thoroughly investigated. A most minute description of the Victim was secured, even before the confession of Subject Thurmond. Every piece of clothing which he wore had been described in detail, together with jewelry, pocket book, color and size of shoes, in fact everything conceivable regarding his personal appearance was obtained. In addition a complete statement was secured from the physician of the Victim, and an interview was had by Agents with the dentist of Brooke L. Hart, as well as his chiropodist, and it is interesting to note that this information proved of value when the body of Victim Brooke Hart was located. The clothing of the Victim had been eaten away, but through the markings on the clothes, through the doctoring of the Victim's foot by a chiropodist, and through the statement of the Victim's dentist, who had recently done some dental work for the Victim, and who had a complete chart of the teeth in the Victim's mouth, it was definitely proved, without question, that the body found in the San Francisco Bay was in reality the body of Victim Brooke L. Hart.

The dentist probably proved the most conclusive of all in this respect. However, the clothing in the Hart's store had a secret mark, and this secret mark was found on some of the clothing on the body of the Victim when it was found in the San Francisco Bay.

As a matter of possible interest, Subjects did not have any prior criminal record. They were both born and raised at San Jose, California, being twenty-eight and twenty-nine years of age, respectively. Their reason for killing the Victim was because they believed he might recognize them.

Had Mr. Hart, Sr., kept his appointment with Subjects, with the \$40,000, from the facts developed, they would have, no doubt, killed him too.

Subjects both came from splendid families at San Jose, California, their families being well respected.

The proprietors of the stores at San Jose, California, from whom Holmes and Thurmond purchased the wire and cement blocks, with which they bound and weighted the Victim, were, of course, located and interviewed, and numerous other people were interviewed, and the information obtained showed a close association of Thurmond and Holmes at San Jose, California.

For your further information, as rapidly as letters were received by Mr. Hart, they were carefully wrapped in cellophane, and were photographed by a photographer at San Jose, and the originals were sent to Washington to be checked for fingerprints, and to be checked also with samples of printing which had been secured from Subjects Holmes and Thurmond at the time we secured their confessions.

Since that time the crime detection bureau of the Division has submitted a partial report, which is very enlightening.

In this case, by stationing an Agent in the Hart home, we had the complete cooperation of the entire family from the minute the Federal investigation took place, and which assisted materially in breaking this case.

This case is rather unique in the annals of kidnaping, in that the kidnapers were apprehended before the ransom was paid, or the Victim located.

At the time Subjects were lynched at San Jose, California, they were both in the custody of the State, and were, in no sense, Federal prisoners. The State had taken complete charge of the Subjects for prosecution, which provides capital punishment for kidnaping in California.

December 29, 1933.

RECORDED

JAN 8 1934

JAN 4 1934

Mr. R. E. Votterli,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
All Kewes Building,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Votterli:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letters of  
December 19, 1933, attaching copies of briefs entitled  
respectively, "Thomas G. [redacted], John G. Malrea, Jerome  
L. [redacted] [redacted] Case at San Jose, California"  
and "[redacted], Victim, Kidnaping  
Case at Kansas City".

b7c

I have found each of these briefs very interesting  
and informative and would appreciate it if you would furnish  
the Division with two additional photostatic copies of each  
brief to be filed in the Division's Library.

Sincerely yours,

Director

Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
318 Howe Building  
San Francisco, California.

REV: IS  
Refer file  
#7-27.

December 19, 1933.

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: THOMAS H. THURSTON  
JOHN M. HOLMES  
BROOKE L. HART - Victim.  
Kidnaping.

In reply to your letter dated December 12, 1933,  
please be advised that I have dictated a brief on the Brooke  
L. Hart kidnaping case, and also on the kidnaping case,  
at Kansas City.

b7c

These briefs have already been typed by the sten-  
ographers at this office, and will be photostated within the next  
forty-eight hours, and a copy will be forwarded to the Division  
and to all offices.

Very truly yours,

*R. E. Vetterli*

R. E. VETTERLI,  
Special Agent  
in Charge.

RECORDED

DEC 28 1933

7-375-67  
DEC 26 1933  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED  
DEC 21 1933