

### Mer Rouge Death Plot Story Bared by Mystery Man

Mob Murders Planned at Midnight Conference in Texas Oil Town, Atlanta Convict Says.

By International News Service.  
Atlanta, Ga., April 9.—A group of five desperate men, all members of the Ku Klux Klan, plotted the infamous mob murders of Mer Rouge at a midnight conference in a Texas oil town in August, 1922, according to the inside story of the crime revealed by Dr. A. C. Busey, man of mystery, before he disappeared from the federal prison here.

As a result a new investigation of the murder mystery was under consideration today by the department of justice on the basis of information turned over by International News Service. A nationwide search was meanwhile continued for Busey in the belief he might solve the tragedy which stunned the nation more than a year ago and which has since defied solution.

The Texas conference, Busey claimed, developed into a Ku Klux Klan uprising in Morehouse parish a few weeks later, ending ultimately in the revolting murder of Watt Daniel, world war veteran, and the "traveling imprisonment" of his bosom friend, Thomas F. Richards, who had betrayed the former soldier to his doom.

**Names Plotters.**  
Before he disappeared Busey told friends the names of a clergyman, a town official, two wealthy oil men and a planter, all klansmen, who attended the Texas conference and turned "thumbs down" on Daniel's life. The death verdict was decreed by these five men because Daniel "ran" bootleg liquor into Texas oil camps.

**Ends in Murder.**  
The plot, launched in the Texas oil

town, spread like a prairie fire, Busey said. It led to the daylight kidnaping of five parish citizens, including Daniel and Richards, and culminated in the brutal murder of the war veteran. Although three score klansmen were participants in the kidnaping, it was said, only a carefully chosen "murder squad" of six klansmen carried Daniel and Richards off to their final reckoning. It was Busey's claim that while this squad murdered Daniel, it banished Richards to a captivity that has lasted for 20 months.

In this "murder squad," there were three strange klansmen imported from Arkansas, a parish official, and two parish planters. One of its members told J. L. Daniel, aged father of the veteran who was kidnaped and whipped on that fateful August night, that:

"One of these men may come back the other you will never see again."  
In the original plot, Busey said, Richards' captivity was to have ended when "things died down," but the unexpected nation-wide publicity and the finding of the bodies in Lake La Fourche caused his captors to continue their bondage lest he betray them to the tools of justice.  
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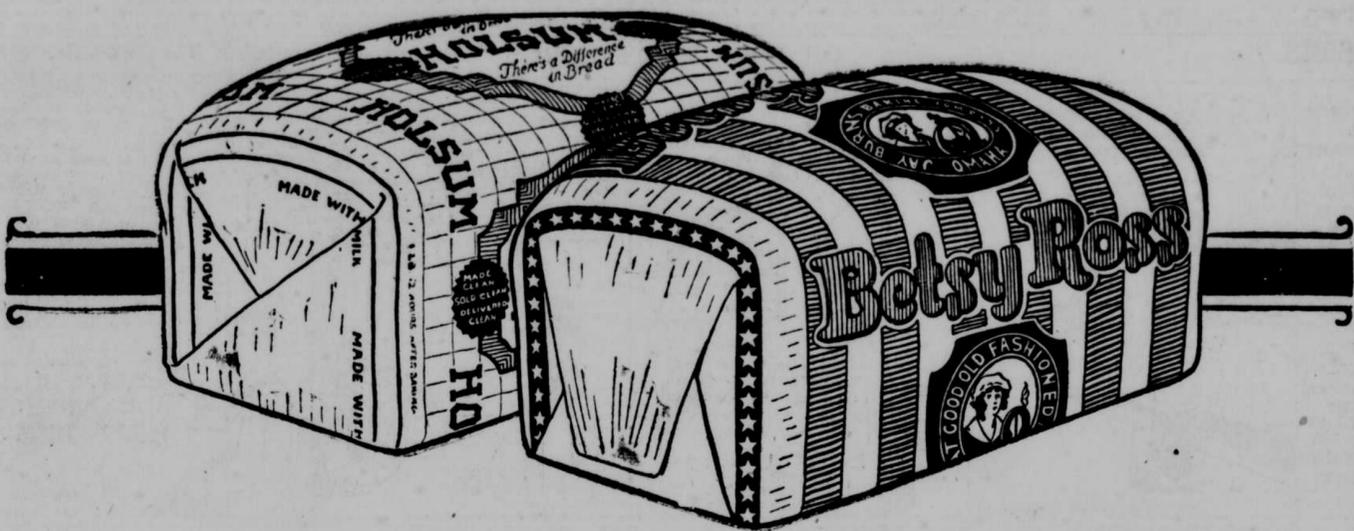
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