

1 I would certainly believe anything he said, even if he weren't
2 under oath. From my own knowledge of him and from the reputation
3 he had among the other members of our group, I would say that he
4 was not the kind of man who would injure any person, least of all
5 his wife. I never knew him to lose his temper.
6

7 I do not believe he killed his wife. He is the victim of
8 circumstances and of a mistaken identification made by Mrs.
9 Wilson, the stepmother. I understand she will claim she saw him
10 fire the gun that night, out at a curb in front of the house at
11 1751 Madison in the dark with no lights, while it was raining.
12 The whole thing is incredible. I think she had such a hatred of
13 Joe that, in her highly emotional state, she wanted to see Joe
14 kill his wife. Her identification springs from her emotional
15 bias toward him; she saw what her emotions wanted her to see.
16

17 I'll tell you who I think might have done it. I used to be
18 bailiff for old Judge Wilson, Helen's father. He sent a lot of
19 guys away for a long time, and some of them wanted to get even.
20 There was this one fellow, John Bierman, who thought Judge Wilson
21 had ruined his life; Bierman threatened to get him for it. In
22 YR-14, Bierman was convicted of murdering his business partner,
23 who was very well known in town. It was a real "headlines" case.
24 Bierman claimed the Judge and the prosecutor rigged the trial.
25 Bierman's whole life was wrecked; he lost a good business, his
26 family, everything, and got 25-30 years from the Judge.
27

28 Last summer, I read in the newspaper that Bierman was
29 getting out of prison and was returning to Nita City. In early
30 September of last year, I saw Bierman in the Silver Dollar bar. I
31 recognized him right away, even though the trial was 14-15 years
32 ago, because he had a very distinctive face, and he hadn't
33 changed much. I was sitting at the bar fairly close to Bierman,
34 but I'm sure he didn't recognize me. I heard him tell the
35 bartender that the Judge had railroaded him. He said he was glad
36 Wilson was dead, but that it sure didn't even come close to
37 making up for everything he had lost: family, business,
38 everything. I watched him leave the bar that night. He got into
39 an older, dirty, white GM car. I couldn't tell you whether it
40 was a Chevy or a Pontiac. I didn't see the license.
41

42 I haven't seen Bierman since that night, but I know Joe
43 O'Neill, and I don't believe he could have done this. I think
44 the police ought to get hold of this Bierman.
45

46 It is true that on a number of occasions when he was in our
47 shop, Joe O'Neill bragged that he was an excellent shot with his
48 revolver. He said that he practiced target shooting regularly.

1 I remember once he told me that he could hit a dime at 100 yards.
2 Joe never discussed his private affairs with me, and I didn't
3 know about his troubles with his wife or with Mrs. Wilson from
4 anything he said to me. If he had troubles, he always kept them
5 to himself.

6
7 I have read the above statement and it is true and correct.
8

Name: Sam Russo

Date: October 15, YR-1

Witness: Angel Wilkes

Date: October 16, YR-1