

McConkey

On January 10, 1921 Eugene ~~McKinley~~ of Enid made the following statement:

I knew D. E. George in Hennessey, Okla., a town about 20 miles south of here in 1896. At that time I was about 17 years of age. I am able to place the date 1896 because as I remember George offered to bet money on the election of McKinley and claimed he was betting for some Eastern men. I was a sign painter and George a house painter. George claimed in Hennessey that he had studied interior decorating in St. Louis. I never knew D. E. George by any other name than that and never heard of the name Bryan in connection with him as Mr. Bates says in his book. I loaned George 50¢ several times and was always paid back. He may have gotten money from the outside, but never could have been very much during the time he was here. While in Hennessey George had a mustache and a goatee, both of which he dyed; in fact, he made every attempt to look young.

Bill

Carbide

George boarded at the ~~Carney~~ Hotel with old man ~~Carney~~, who would be about ready to throw him out when George would get some money and pay up. He always drank a lot when he had the money. I left Hennessey in April, 1900 for Enid. I did not know that George came here until after his death when I took a picture of him. He had fattened up a lot since the Hennessey days. He was tall and lanky at that time, as I remember him. Here, in Enid, I understand he told

people he was a carpenter. One could see that he wasn't much of a painter after he finished his first job, but there were so many people down here who had pasts that no one asked any questions. He would quite often recite from Shakespeare who he called "old Bill". I can remember him reciting Lincoln's Gettysburg's Address with much gusto. For days he would be very jolly and then for several days quite morose. I called him "Dad" George. One time I said to him, "Dad you've seen better days". He answered, "Yes, booze will get the best of them". I never heard him speak of John Wilkes Booth or of President Lincoln's assassination. He talked a lot about the South and claimed that he had been a Confederate soldier and discussed the war with old Federal soldiers quite often. He tried to effect the Kentucky Colonel type. He complained of rheumatism, but I do not remember that he limped.

Note: Several interviewed in Hennessey claimed that ^{McCorkay} ~~Hennessey~~ was only a kid that wouldn't know Bill Shakespeare from Bill Bryan.