

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

NORFOLK ss.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

Nos. 5545 and 5546.

Criminal Session.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

v.

NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

AFFIDAVIT OF ELLSWORTH C. JACOBS

My name is Ellsworth C. Jacobs. I am now and have been for a number of years attached to the New Bedford Police Department. At the present time I am a sergeant under Captain Raphael Pieraccini in the Liquor Law Violation Department, but in 1920 I was an inspector with Pieraccini in the Department. One evening a short time before April 15, 1920 in New Bedford I saw a new Buick touring car in which was a man whom I knew as Michael Morrell. The car bore the number 154E Rhode Island. There were two other men with Michael Morrell in the car. Michael Morrell was living in New Bedford at the time but came originally from Providence as I am informed. He had a bad reputation in New Bedford, being known as a "pimp" and as connected with white slave traffic. He was generally called Mike and was an Italian as I am informed, one of five brothers whose home was in Providence, Rhode Island. I am informed that four of the Morrell brothers, not including Mike, were then under Federal indictment awaiting trial on the charge of stealing merchandise from freight cars in the vicinity of Providence. I remember that it was a few days before April 15, 1920 because on that date I saw the car again, making a note of it in my note book. This second time I saw the car was in the afternoon of April 15, 1920 according to my note book. As I recall it was on my way to the Police Headquarters where I was due at 5:30 P.M. The Post Office is about seven or eight min-

utes' walk from Police Headquarters. The time must have been between 5 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. I caught a rear view of the car as it passed me going by the Post Office and noted the number 154E in my note book.

Subsequently one afternoon, which I find to have been April 24, 1920 on consulting my note book, I found a big black dull looking touring car, a Cole "8" car, standing at the curb in front of Joseph Fiore's restaurant on the corner of Kempton and Purchase Streets, New Bedford. This car bore the same number plate as was on the new Buick touring car. Fiore's restaurant had the name of being visited by men of bad reputation. I went into the restaurant and found Mike Morrell's brother, Frank Morrell, at a table with three other men who appeared to be Italians. They were extremely nervous at my approach. One of the Italians whom I remember distinctly was a short heavysset man with a wide, square face, high cheek bones, smooth shaven, dark brown hair, thirty-five to forty years of age, weighing about one hundred seventy pounds, and probably about five feet, six or seven inches in height. I recall him distinctly because when I approached the table he reached for his hip pocket which made me believe that he was going to draw a gun. I was unarmed at the time and feared violence. I can never forget that man's face. When I approached, Frank Morrell immediately spoke up and asked why I was picking on him all the time and what I wanted with him. Frank Morrell did not hang around New Bedford as much as Mike. I am informed that he was one of the four other brothers indicted in Providence. I asked Frank how it happened that the Cole car below had the same number as the new Buick which I had seen Mike driving. He replied he was in the automobile business and that the plate was a dealer's plate which he transferred from one car to another.

I never saw the Buick car again after April 15, 1920, nor have I seen Frank Morrell since approximately that time. Mike Morrell remained in New Bedford for some time, possibly a year, when presu-

ably he left and I have not seen him since.

At the time of the South Braintree murder and payroll robbery, I suspected the Morrells and discussed my suspicions with then Inspector Pieraccini who seemed to share them. However, as I had no definite evidence I dropped the matter after the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti.

The description of Mike Morrell as contained in the police records of New Bedford on the date of April 3, 1920 is as follows: Occupation: salesman; Birthplace: Providence, Rhode Island; Height: five feet four and one-half inches; Weight: one hundred twenty-five pounds; Age: twenty-eight; Eyes: brown; Hair: black; Complexion: dark; Residence: 265 Union Street. In addition to the description from our record I would say that Michael Morrell's eyes were bright, what one would call snappy, that his chin was rather long and stuck out, his cheeks inclined to be sunken and he was smooth shaven. Frank Morrell was a little taller than Mike, approximately the same build with more regular features and not quite so dark a complexion. He weighed about one hundred fifty pounds, was smooth shaven and considerably older than Mike. Frank was a good dresser and always appeared to be supplied with money.

On consulting our records at about this time I find that Celestine Madeiros was arrested on May 1, 1920 in New Bedford for idle and disorderly conduct and for larceny, and on May 25, 1920 for breaking and entering and committing larceny in the night-time. Our records show that on June 14, 1920 he was found guilty and given five months in the House of Correction. I am informed that he had a juvenile record before this. Our records show that on the May first arrest Madeiros gave us his address as the Bristol House. The Bristol House was a notorious place in New Bedford, used as a house of ill fame in which there was a cabaret. Subsequently on January 15, 1921 I raided the Bristol House, arresting among others, Jennie Morrell, wife of Mike Morrell. At the time of the arrest on May 25,

1920 Madeiros gave us his address as 129 Bates Avenue.

The foregoing statements are true of my personal knowledge, except such as are stated to be made upon information and belief, and those I have been informed are true and I believe them to be true.

Ellsworth C. Jacobs

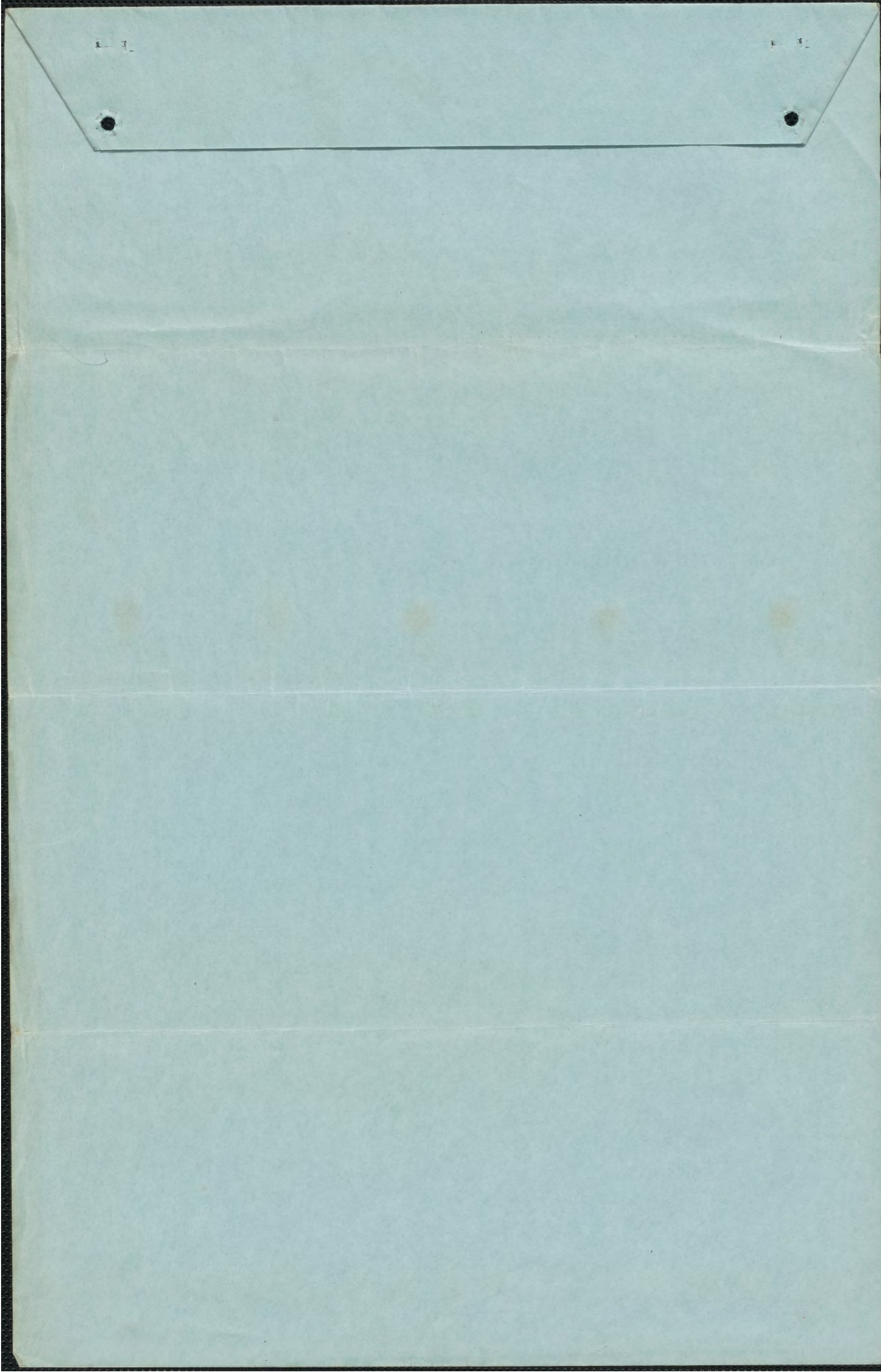
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bristol ss.

New Bedford, May 27th, 1926

Then personally appeared the above named Ellsworth (Jacobs) and made oath that the foregoing statement subscribed by him is true. Before me,

Herbert B. Channing
Notary Public



185
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Norfolk, ss. Superior Court
#5545 + 5546 185 Criminal Session

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
v.
Nicola Sacco + Bartolomeo
Venzetti

Affidavit of Ellsworth C.
Jacobs.

RECEIVED & FILED

JUN 11 1926

OFFICE OF CLERK OF COURTS
NORFOLK COUNTY.