

April 15, 1950

Homicide Bureau      Lt. H. Nesbitt  
                                 Sgt. W. Gibson

Supplementary to Homicide

Binaggio, Charles  
Gargotta, Charles

We contacted James Balestrere, 5421 Brooklyn, Hi. 4676, and brought him to the Homicide Bureau for questioning. He informed us that at the present time he is working for his son, Sam Balestrere, at the liquor store, 1124 E. 18th Street, and has been working there for the past four or five years. He also stated that he has been out of the rackets for some time, and the last time he had any connection with anything was in 1942. At that time, Charles Binaggio cut him in on Green Hills, and he made \$5,000 on the deal. He also informed us that in 1938, he was cut in on a Bingo game, 39th and Troost, and also 39th and Main, and made some money out of that. One of these Bingo games was run by the Eddy brothers. In none of these deals did he have to put up any money, nor did he do any work in any of the places. He also stated he knew Charlie Gargotta very well, but never was in on any deals with him. He was also very well acquainted with Tono Lococo and Tony Gizzo, but has never had any business deals with them. He is a very good friend of Charlie (Wop) Carollo, and during the bootlegging days he was hooked up with him in the sugar racket, but had had no connection with him lately.

We questioned him in regards to him being the head of the Nafia, "Black Hand Society", and he denied even knowing what the Mafia, was and to his knowledge, there was no such society in Kansas City. The last time he saw either Binaggio or Gargotta was in the Federal Building, at which time they were all under subpoena to the Grand Jury. He stated he would be unable to give us any information on the killing of the two men and that he had no idea what it was all about.

We questioned him in regards to where he was on Wednesday April 5th, and he stated that he went to the Liquor Store at 9:00 AM, that morning, staying until 1:00 AM, the next morning, at which time he went home.

F.B. Collins, Chief of Detectives - By:  
Records, Homicide, DD

Lt. H. D. Nesbitt

Gibson - jf/